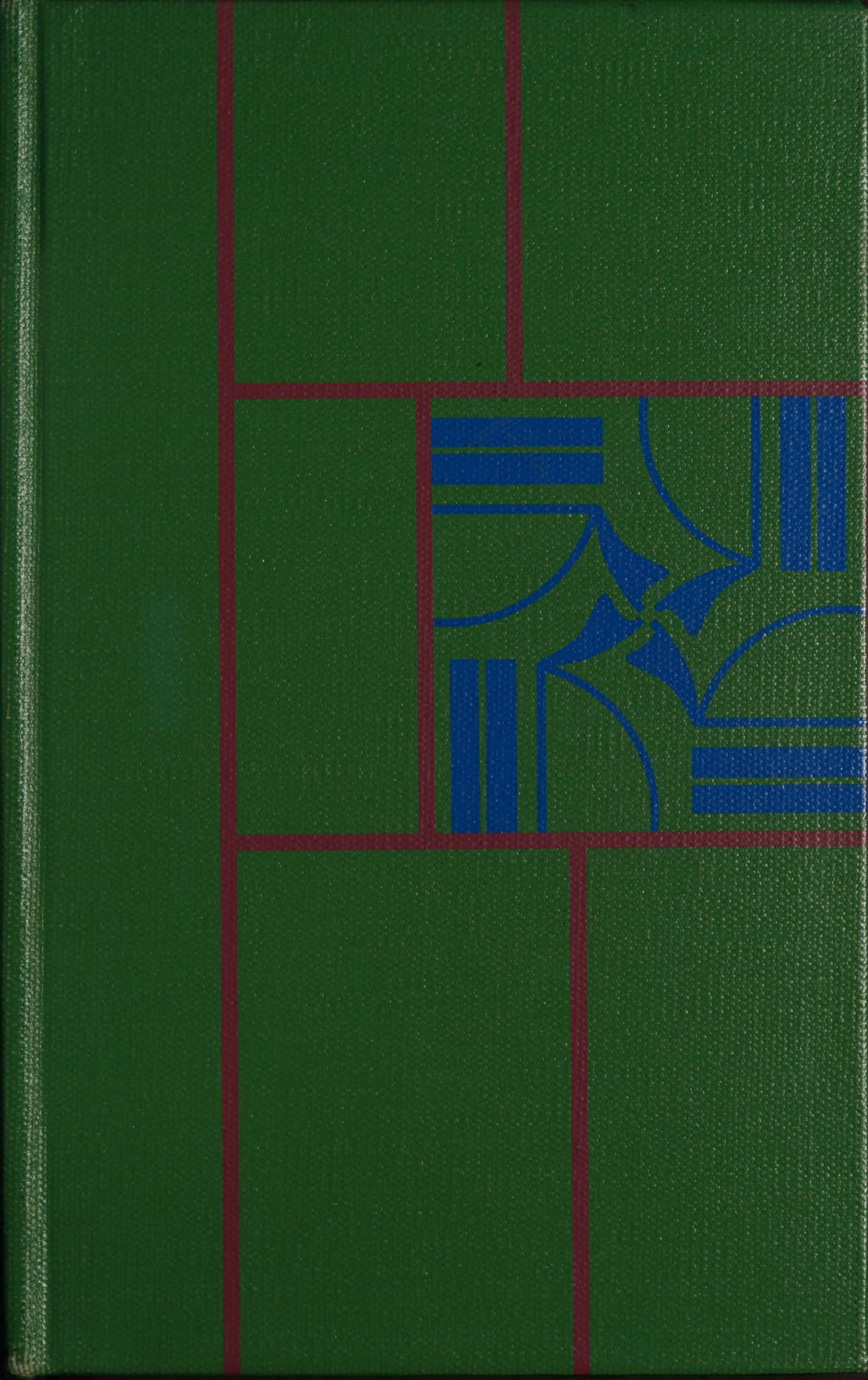

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Centennial Volume of Papers

of

The Seneca Falls Historical Society

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FOREWORD

It is with a sense of pride and pleasure that The Seneca Falls Historical Society resumes the publication of papers read before the society, and it seems particularly appropriate that this should be done during this year of 1948 which is historically so important in our village. In observance of the Centennial of the First Woman's Rights Convention, we present this volume of papers.

Thirty-five years have run their course since the papers read before the society were last published. The vicissitudes of those years, needless to say, have been many and varied. This span of years has witnessed many world-shaking events, which have left their mark on our village and the lives of its people. Two great World Wars have been fought, and to each Seneca Falls has loyally contributed her share of men and the tools of war. The passing years have left their mark on the physical appearance of our village as well. The calm waters of Van Cleef Lake now sparkle where once the homes and factories of lower Fall Street stood, and the Barge Canal with its modern locks replaces the older canal. Miles of paved streets now take the place of the muddy or dusty streets of days gone by, and fast-moving motor vehicles now crowd the highways where once old dobbin held sway. Overhead the once quiet skies now almost daily resound with the hum of airplanes. **O Tempora! O Mores!**

The year of 1923 witnessed the celebration in Seneca Falls of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the First Woman's Rights Convention. At that time the observance was, for the most part, planned and carried out by the National Woman's Party, whose representatives gathered here in large numbers for the occasion. One of the highlights of that celebration was a pageant held on the grounds of Van Cleef park adjoining Trinity Church. That observance was of great interest not only to the village, but to the nation and world as well inasmuch as woman's suffrage was but a few years old at that time.

The Seneca Falls Historical Society itself has not been immune to change during these past thirty-five years, but the passing years have dealt kindly with the society. Notable among the changes which have taken place is the acquisition of a suitable building which makes it possible to house adequately and display the many treasures which have come to the society over the more than fifty years of its existence. The purchase of the building was made possible by the solicited contributions of the descendants of the early settlers of our village. From the first white settler, Job Smith, to Oren Root, father of the famed Elihu Root, these time-honored names are inscribed on a large bronze tablet affixed to one of the mainfloor walls of the building.

The members of the Seneca Falls Historical Society are happy to present this volume of papers, both for the pleasure this publica-

tion will afford its readers, and also for the preservation and dissemination of the excellent and valuable historical material it contains.

March 31, 1948 Elizabeth D. Howland

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Indians of the Finger Lakes' Section in the 18th Century

by

MRS. JOHN C. DAVIS

October 1947

Before the dawn of recorded history, the eleven counties of Central New York were occupied by a group of Indians known as Algonkins. Where these people came from or where they vanished to is one of the mysteries that still lies locked in the soil of this region. The Algonkins were tall, averaging about five feet seven inches to five feet ten inches in height. They had the typical Indian nose and heavy cheekbones. While these people lived contentedly and serenely in their garden spot among the lakes, invaders came. The Algonkins sought to defend themselves. They made stockaded forts on hill-tops, but the invaders, coming probably from the north, pressed on.

The Iroquois had come to snatch the garden spot of Central New York for their own. Probably the Algonkins equalled the Iroquois in bravery, but they lacked the constancy, solidity of character, and capability of organization which belonged to their conquerors, who, until the white men came, were to have their seat of power in the heart of the Empire State.

A Confederacy of Nations holding sway without a single internal conflict characterized the Iroquois who expelled the Algonkins. At first they were called the Five Nations, embracing the Mohawks, Oneidas, Cayugas, Onondagas, and Senecas. In 1722, the Tuscaroras were added, making them the Six Nations.

As early as 1678, Father Hennepin, who visited the Confederacy, said: "The Iroquois, whom the Swedes, then the Dutch, and the English, and the French, have furnished with firearms, are reckoned as the most savage of all savages yet known. They have slain the best warriors among the Hurons and forced the rest of the nation to join with them to make war together against all their enemies, situated five or six hundred leagues distant from their cantons. They have already destroyed about two million men."

The sachems of the Six Nations were elected in public assembly, though some held hereditary office. They were in peace times the supreme civil authority while in war they were but counselors to the war chiefs who held dictatorial power. The women of the tribes were influential in tribal affairs, holding the right to nominate sachems, although they never spoke in council.

The tribes had various clans given animal names such as the bear, wolf, beaver, turtle, deer, plover, heron, and hawk, etc. All members of a clan were considered near relatives. One might not marry in his clan, and as children followed the mother's origin, father and child were never of the same clan. With such a simple but effective system of economics the Six Nations held sway over

the main portion of this continent east of the Mississippi for two centuries.

The Six Nations of Central New York were the tribes which held the mastery of the continent and worked out for themselves the initial problems of government before the Mayflower sailed, and before the New Netherlands fought the fight of liberty. Today, there are approximately 5,500 in New York State, of this brave race. At the close of the Revolution, the Mohawks removed to Canada, and in 1779, sold all their claims for $1,600. The lands of the others were gradually purchased and the remnants of the tribes located on reservations, seven of which are in this state.

When peace was proclaimed in 1783, England made no terms for her Indian allies, but Chief Cornplanter brought about a peace treaty with the United States at Fort Stanwix near Rome, in 1784. Councils between the Iroquois and the United States were held at Tioga in 1790, and at Painted Post in 1791, and the last one at Canandaigua in 1794, where the reservations allotted to the Indians were confirmed. The Treaty of Big Tree at Geneseo, in 1797, extinguished the title of the Six Nations to their ancient possessions, with the exception of the reservations.

By the terms of the charter of the colony of Massachusetts, the region between its north and south boundaries from the Atlantic to the Pacific was embraced, and the title to this territory was claimed by Massachusetts after the Revolution. The subsequent charter of the State of New York intervened and conflicted with this claim. Therefore, difficulties arose which were finally settled by commissioners at Hartford, Connecticut, December 16, 1786. It was there agreed that Massachusetts should cede to New York the sovereignty of all the territory claimed by the former lying within the limits of New York, and that New York should cede to Massachusetts the right of the pre-emption of the soil from the Indians. This agreement covered all that part of the state lying west of a line running north from the "82nd milestone" on the line between New York and Pennsylvania, through Seneca Lake to Sodus Bay. This line is known as the old "Pre-emption Line." In 1787, Massachusetts sold the whole of this tract containing six million acres to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham for about one million dollars.

In the following spring, Mr. Phelps left his home in Granville, Massachusetts, with men and means to explore his new territory. He collected the sachems, chiefs, and warriors of the Six Nations at Kanadesaga (Geneva) and in July 1788, concluded with them a treaty of purchase of a tract of over two million acres, bounded on the east by the Pre-emption Line; on the west by a line twelve miles west of and running parallel with the Genesee River; on the south by the Pennsylvania line; and on the north by Lake Ontario. The portion of the tract to which the Indian title had not been extinguished, consisting of about two thirds of the original purchase, was abandoned by Phelps and Gorham, and resold to Robert Morris, an American financier and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Subsequently it formed what is known as the Holland

Land Purchase. In 1789, Mr. Phelps, at Canandaigua, opened the first regular land office for the sale of land ever established in America.

So, by 1789, the western boundaries of New York State were definitely settled by agreement with the states of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, and in that year the Cayugas settled on a reservation of one hundred square miles bordering Cayuga Lake near its foot, and were granted an annuity. Because of the encroachment of white settlements on the reservation, subsequent treaties from time to time were entered upon. In 1795, the chiefs of the tribe negotiated with Governor George Clinton for the sale of their reserved one hundred square miles, excepting two small parcels comprising thirty-two hundred acres. The land was purchased at fifty cents an acre and sold by the State to whites at one dollar and fifty cents. Shortly before the War of 1812, the Cayugas sold the remaining thirty-two hundred acres and most of them left the area. Although the Cayugas in Canada fought against the United States in 1812, those in New York State stood loyal. Their annuity of twenty-three hundred dollars remained the same.

In any study of the Iroquois, chief interest centers in the great personalities, — the warriors, the diplomats, the leaders. But time limits me to mentioning just a few. Queen Esther, notorious as the "fiend of Wyoming", was a daughter of French Margaret, and grand-daughter of Madame Montour. She lived six miles south of Tioga Point in 1772 when she moved six miles north, founding a new town which was destroyed in 1778, when she moved on to Chemung. She had a son who was killed a short time previous to the Wyoming massacre, which doubtless prompted her fury at that time. After her husband's death in battle, she ruled the tribe, superintending the tilling of near-by fields, growing maize, beans, and pumpkins, an orchard of apple trees and on the meadows the raising of horses, cattle, and swine. She attended the war councils of the Six Nations, and even accompanied the chiefs to Philadelphia to lay some grievance before the Continental Congress. Here her wondrous beauty and dignity of bearing made a great impression. She spoke French and English besides the Indian dialects. Upon the approach of Sullivan's Expedition, she fled to Canada and died there.

Old Smoke is said by many historians to have been the leader of the Indians in the Wyoming massacre. His home was at Kanadesaga, the Indian village on the site of Geneva, which was destroyed by Sullivan.

Cornplanter, orator and leader of the Senecas, was born about 1742, the son of John Abeel, a young fur trader and the son of a former mayor of Albany. His mother was a Seneca Indian princess named Aliquipino, whom Abeel, then under twenty, married in a red man's ceremony after a forest courtship in the wilds of the lake region. The father left his home with the Indians and married Mary Knouts, a German girl, and was living with her when the Revolution broke out. In October 1780, a year after Sullivan's Ex-

pedition, he was taken prisoner by the Indians. He expected death, but to his great surprise a young warrior, Cornplanter, called him father. He was given liberty to return to his white family. Later Cornplanter visited his father, and there, with his step-mother and half-brothers and sisters, was cordially received. Cornplanter derived his authority not by succession, but through recognition of his natural abilities as a leader. He was one of the most prominent Senecas of military rank. As late as 1792, Chief Cornplanter, referring to the destruction by the Sullivan Expedition, made a most eloquent address to Washington in person.

The mediator, the lover of peace, the orator,—that was Logan, the Indian whose most famous speech has been translated into many languages and has become a model of eloquence for American boys. Generally classed as a Cayuga, he was reputed to have been born where Auburn stands, and died there two years after the Sullivan Expedition. It was in 1749, when he was but twenty-two years old, that Logan inherited from his father almost unlimited jurisdiction over the tribes of Pennsylvania, north of the Long House among the Finger Lakes, and west as far as the crest of the Alleghenies. It was not long before the general council of the Onondagas raised him to a Sachem of the Shamokins and he was elected Sachem of the Cayugas as well. In 1754, he represented the Six Nations at a meeting with the proprietors at Albany on the sale of lands. Then opened the long list of broken treaties, and while the French and English and Indians were in constant strife, Logan kept to his cabin. On April 13, 1774, while Logan was away on a hunting trip, a party of thirty-two whites invited five braves, several squaws, and a two months old baby across Yellow Creek to a tavern, feigning hospitality, and offering drink. Unarmed, all the Indians except the baby were killed and most of them scalped. These unprovoked massacres wiped out Logan's family, his brother and sister, the mother of the baby. When Logan returned, vengeance sent him on the warpath. Thirty white scalps adorned his belt. In his bitterness, Logan debauched freely and is said to have been shot by his own nephew in a drunken brawl. The name Logan is believed to have been taken from the benevolent James Logan, friend of the Indian chief's father. It was in 1774, that Logan's career was at its zenith, and he delivered his historic speech.

Sagoyewatha, or Red Jacket, as he was called by the British because of a red toga he always wore, was born about 1755, presumably at Canoga. In civil life his name was Otetiana, meaning "always ready." On his elevation as a chief in the ranks of the Senecas, he received the name Sagoyewatha, meaning "he keeps them awake." Little is known of his early career, but it is known he was never a warrior. When Sullivan's invasion came to the lake country, he advised retreat. Red Jacket was among the fifty Indian chiefs who accepted an invitation from Washington to attend a conference in Philadelphia in 1791. There he made one of the greatest addresses of his life and was presented with a silver medal by Washington, a token which he wore until his death.

A savage marauder of the frontier, Joseph Brant, has left a name whose recollection envisions slaughter, massacre, pillage, plunder, burning, and devastation. As a war chief of the Mohawks he was a terror of the Finger Lakes more than a century and a half ago, and no Indian played a greater part in the stirring events of the Revolution. Brant's natural gifts were enhanced through circumstance. Because his sister, Molly, was the mistress of Sir William Johnson, baronet and popular British Indian agent, who died in 1774, he was provided with a fair English education at Lebanon, Connecticut. Johnson gave him a responsible position in the Indian agency, which he held until the Revolution, when he fled to Montreal, was taken to Britain, presented to the nobility, and was persuaded that ancient treaties of his people bound him as an ally to English arms. He came back to America to lead his warriors against the colonists, a man of dauntless courage, lofty bearing and inhuman ferocity. Historians claim that he was the Indian commander in the massacres of Wyoming and Cherry Valley. It was Brant who led the Indians at the battle of Newtown, with Colonel John Butler, Indian land speculator, Tory, and friend of Sir William Johnson leading the Royalists. In 1780, Brant surprised and burned Harpersfield and tormented the Mohawk valley all summer with about five hundred Indians. After the declaration of peace in 1782, Brant tried to incite another war against the colonies and was a powerful figure as late as 1795.

Among the captives of the Indians was a Jacob Fredenburg, who fled in 1787, from Massachusetts, to escape arrest for complicity in Shay's Rebellion, being one of the earliest whites to live among the Senecas. But, of course, he was merely a voluntary exile among the Indians. He came to hide himself, stopping at what is now Penn Yan, and built a log hut by Jacob's Brook. He was adopted into the tribe and remained with the red men for three years before returning east.

During the dark days of Indian warfare in Wyoming Valley, preceding the Sullivan Expedition, Luke Swetland was captured by the Indians and taken in captivity to the Indian village of Kendaia on Seneca Lake. There he remained a prisoner for a year until released by the Sullivan Expedition troops in 1779. Late in the fall of 1778, Swetland sowed one quart of wheat, probably the first sown in Seneca County. He returned with the troops to Pennsylvania where he died at Wyoming at the age of ninety-three.

Several early settlers of Romulus suffered Indian captivity during or after the Revolution, among them being, Joseph Wyckoff and Kezea Foree, who afterward became his wife; also Andrew McKnight, and Mrs. Mary Swartout, wife of John Swartout. Two of the pioneer settlers of Fayette were captured by Indians when they resided in Pennsylvania. They were Michael Vreeland, who located on the Cayuga reservation, and William Chatham, who settled a little to the northward. But the hardship failed to shorten their lives. Vreeland lived to the age of eighty-one, and Chatham reached the ripe old age of ninety-six.

No Indian captive in Central New York had a more thrilling experience than that of Jasper Parrish, famous Indian interpreter, who was a prisoner for seven years. Today, descendants of Parrish still live in Canandaigua, where his picture hangs in the Ontario County Courthouse. Jasper Parrish was born in Connecticut in 1767, but his parents soon migrated to the headwaters of the Delaware in New York. On July 5, 1778, Jasper, then a boy of eleven, while helping his father in the fields, was captured by Monsee Indians. For three months he was held in an Indian village when "Captain" Mounch, his red captor, took him to Chemung, where he was often beaten by the members of the tribe. Parrish was sold to a Delaware Indian family for twenty dollars, and taken to the Tioga River. Through the winter and spring of 1779, he lived with the Indians being forced with other boys to jump through the ice in the river to "toughen him." When Sullivan's army fought the battle of Newtown in the fall of that year, Parrish was with the Indians who took him in their retreat to Fort Niagara. There British officers offered a guinea a piece for scalps of white Colonials. When the red men were drunk, Parrish barely saved his scalp by hiding through the night in the forest. At Niagara his master sold him for twenty dollars to a portly Mohawk named Captain David Hill. He was held by this master for five years and adopted into the Indian's family as a son. The Indian moved to Lewiston, where he lived when the treaty of September 1784 was arranged between the United States and the Iroquois. Two months later, in accordance with an agreement of the treaty, Jasper was delivered over to the United States forces along with ninety-two other white prisoners. He traced his long lost family to Goshen, New York, reaching them when eighteen years old, unable to read or write, and hardly able to speak English. He then had nine month's schooling before he was appointed Indian interpreter to the United States by General Israel Chapin of Harfield, Massachusetts, Indian Superintendent. Parrish opened his office at Canandaigua in 1792. Two years later President Washington called a council of all chiefs and sachems of the Six Nations at Canandaigua, Parrish covering much of the state in mobilizing the red men. The assembly opened at Canandaigua on October 18, 1794, and continued to November 12th, with sixteen hundred Indians attending. The red men fed themselves by killing as many as one hundred deer in a single day. The pact that came out of that meeting established final peace between the white and red men.

Of all the Protestant missionaries among the Indians just before the Revolutionary war period, none gave more devout, untiring service than Rev. Samuel Kirkland, who later became a chaplain on the staff of General John Sullivan in his Indian campaign of 1779. In that expedition he traversed a wilderness in Central New York with which he had become familiar before the war, when as a Presbyterian missionary he had wandered from long house to long house among the Iroquois. It was Kirkland who was delegated by the War Department to gather the Indian chiefs together for a conference in Philadelphia. While a student at Princeton he

felt the urge to teach Christ to the Indians. At the age of twenty-four he left Johnstown in January 1765, and plunged into the wilderness on snow shoes with two red guides to travel two hundred miles, carrying his forty pound pack. His first work was among the Senecas, particularly at the Indian village on the site of Geneva. Despite his later efforts he was unable to keep the Indians of the western part of the Finger Lakes country from alliance with the British against the Colonists in the Revolution. Kirkland, a real lover of the Indians, founded the Oneida Indian Academy which was later merged into Hamilton College.

The following incident will be of especial interest to members of this society since it involves kinfolk of one of our former members. The tenth of November 1778, was a sad and terrible day for the inhabitants of the little village of Cherry Valley. On that day Indians of various Iroquois tribes had come in large numbers and massacred more than thirty of the old men, women, and children. The younger men were in the Revolutionary War, and the helpless families in Cherry Valley were an easy prey for the Indians. One family, Campbell by name, whose descendant was Mrs. Frederick Lester, long an esteemed member of this society, was singled out for special punishment. Mrs. Campbell's mother was killed before her very eyes, and two of the Campbell's little sons were taken prisoner by the Indians. A third child was rescued by a negro maid, and Mrs. Campbell herself and an infant son were taken prisoner by the Indians and led off by them to their central camp near Geneva.

As the young mother was walking along with her captors she must have suffered in mind and body. Finally after a day or two had passed an Indian came to her during the day's march and took the infant son from her arms. Mrs. Campbell knew that it was useless to resist and walked along alone. Finally, the Indian brought the baby back to her, and from that time on each day at times, he relieved her from the burden of carrying the baby. As the Indians had been on the warpath it seems probable that there were few if any women with them, but they treated Mrs. Campbell with courtesy, and she received no harm from them. When they arrived at Kanadesaga, their permanent camp, Mrs. Campbell adapted herself to the Indian life as well as she knew how, teaching the women to sew, showing them new ways to prepare their food, and making herself a pleasant prisoner. Time passed in this way month after month. Finally word came through some government channel that Benjamin Franklin had secured an arrangement by which American prisoners of Indians and certain Indian prisoners held by the Americans were to be exchanged. This ceremony of exchange was to take place in the city of Montreal at a certain distant date. It is not necessary to dwell upon the feeling of hope mingled with fear, or imagine the details of the long journey to Montreal with the young child. Finally the group of Indians, Mrs. Campbell and her little boy, were in the room in a government building in Montreal. Others were likewise waiting for the official ceremony, and to the joy and amazement of Mrs. Campbell, one of her two sons captured

by the Indians at Cherry Valley recognized his mother, crossed the room and came directly to her. The other was too small at the time of capture to know her. It seems almost too much to believe, but the family finally was united at Cherry Valley. The father returned from war service, the colored maid returned with the boy she had cared for, and Mrs. Campbell joined them with the three other young boys. One of those boys was Bessie Campbell Lester's great-grandfather.

The Finger Lakes Region at the turn of the 18th Century

by

MISS CAROLINE F. LESTER

October 9, 1947

The Battle of Saratoga on the 17th of October 1777, when General Burgoyne was forced to surrender his entire army of British troops to the Continental Army is now regarded as the turning point of the Revolutionary War, and one of the ten decisive battles of the world. The Tories of central New York State and the Indians realized that their control of the rich lands between Albany and Fort Niagara was hanging in the balance. One of the ways they decided to safe-guard their own rights was to destroy settlements of loyal colonists. It took some time to formulate a policy and execute their plans, but in the autumn of the following year, Indian massacres were perpetrated throughout that region. For generations the Iroquois Indian tribes had cultivated lands in the Finger Lakes region and the British had already depended upon them for supplies of food for their army.

A British family of influence lived in central New York, west of Schenectady, and east of what is now Syracuse . The head of this family, Sir William Johnson, his sons, and his Indian connections were a strong influence in inciting the Indians in their fear and hatred of the colonists. The Indian massacre at Cherry Valley and one at Wyoming, south of what is now Elmira, were conspicuous for their brutality, and for their far-reaching effects. In this way began the conflict for supremacy in what is now the Finger Lakes region between the British-dominated Indians and the colonists.

Knowledge of this situation reached General Washington and finally congress empowered him to organize a campaign to take over the territory between Albany and Fort Niagara. Early in 1779, the officers and men were selected for this campaign, and by spring, the so-called Clinton-Sullivan Expedition started for its destination. General James Clinton with his forces set out from Albany, and General John Sullivan from New Jersey and southern Pennsylvania to meet at Tioga, a town near the line between Pennsylvania and New York almost south of Elmira. Marching through an unexplored wilderness was slow and tedious. The journals of the officers describe plodding through marshes, climbing mountains, crossing rivers as the army of three thousand men dragged themselves, their artillery, and provisions toward their destination during July and August. In late August, the two divisions of the army met near Newtown, now Elmira, where the enemy under the leadership of Joseph Brant, a satellite of Sir William Johnson, awaited them. A battle was fought on August 28th, and the Indians were badly beaten, never again to gain supremacy in this region. They retreated towards Fort Niagara, were followed by troops from the Sullivan Army and in small but fierce encounters entirely dis-

persed them. The month of September was employed by General Sullivan and his forces in securing certain of the crops of food and grain then in their prime for their own use or destroying them. Indian villages were likewise destroyed throughout the region and by September 30th, General Sullivan sent in his report to Congress and to General Washington that the army had completed its mission and was about to return to headquarters. The rich farming lands of the Finger Lakes region had been in possession of the Indians for a long time it would seem, for General Sullivan in his journal speaks of the orchards of old fruit trees, of some houses in the villages being built of logs and having chimneys, and of the fact that there were no roads or trails, "the Indians ever having taken the best measures in their power to prevent their country's being explored."

The campaign of 1779 against the Indians and Tories was incorrectly called Sullivan's Raid in the school histories of my generation. Its military and economic importance is now recognized and it is regarded as a necessary military operation. It achieved two objectives that history has proved entirely justifiable: first, the subjugation and disintegration of an alien race that was incapable of absorption by the white colonists after a century and a half of semi-friendly intercourse. Second, the opening up of a rich and desirable area for the expansion of the American colonists, was an equally important result. The Indians under the leadership of Joseph Brant subsequently settled in Brantford, a colony they founded on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario. There is still a small colony of them there I believe. As you all know, our government has cared for the descendants of the Indian survivors of this expedition in reservations at Onondaga, Salamanca, Buffalo, and other parts of this state.

The next fixed date of the coming of the white men to our immediate region is 1787, when Job Smith, a roving pioneer settled on the bank of the Seneca river near where our hospital is now situated, to carve out a future for himself. He remained for a number of years, and later was joined by Lawrence VanCleef who had passed through what is now our village during the Sullivan Expedition. A quaint story handed down in the VanCleef family and the archives of the Seneca Falls Historical Society is that when Lawrence VanCleef was marching along what is now the Auburn road as a member of Colonel Gansevort's army, he passed what he regarded as a specially good piece of land. At the time he was carrying a poplar staff to aid his faltering foot-steps, and thrusting it into the ground he exclaimed that sometime he hoped to come back and claim that piece of land. Within ten years, he did return, found his poplar staff a well-grown tree and took over the land. The present VanCleef farm occupies that tract and for over a century the poplar tree remained a landmark. A few years ago it was destroyed during a heavy storm. A piece of fire-wood size with the manuscript anecdote I have just read was sent to the Seneca Falls Historical Society by the father of the present Lawrence VanCleeff, our Assemblyman.

Job Smith and Lawrence VanCleef joined forces in a carrying trade for a while about 1790, with an ox team and a cart with wheels cut from slices of a large tree. With this they transported settlers who had come by in boats seeking lands farther west around the rapids and falls in the river. For you must remember that in those days, the Seneca outlet, now our Barge Canal was a turbulent stream flowing through stony gorges that produced falls, rapids, and small islands.

In the early 1790's the government of the United States selected the portion of New York State bounded on the east by Oneida County, on the west by the western shore of Seneca Lake, on the north by Lake Ontario, and on the south by the Pennsylvania line as a Military Tract to be given as a bonus to honorably discharged soldiers of the late war. This Military Tract contained some 363,000 acres, and was apportioned by lot to the war veterans according to their rank. It had been laid out into townships of one hundred lots, each lot containing six hundred acres. Thus you see, the Finger Lakes region contained some of the choicest land of the Military Tract, — Onondaga, Skaneateles, Owasco, Cayuga, and Seneca Lakes, and adjoining territory. The land was eagerly sought by veterans and other settlers. To care for this real-estate boom land companies were formed and men of wealth and prominence engaged in real-estate in a big way. The sale of the land within the Tract was controlled by agents of the government and came about when soldiers to whom it was apportioned by lot decided to offer it for sale. However, to the west of the Tract in what is now Ontario and Steuben Counties, the land was bought from the State of New York by land companies for sometimes only a few shillings an acre and sold to settlers for a few dollars an acre, the company gaining the profit. The Pulteney Company with a Scotchman named Charles Williamson as agent was an English organization whose principal owner, Sir William Pulteney had married Lady Henrietta Laura, Countess of Bath. That company went through many vicissitudes and the only relics of its history are the village of Bath, south of Lake Keuka, the name of Pulteney Street in Geneva, and that of Charles Williamson as an organizer. The Phelps-Gorham Purchase had its headquarters in Canandaigua, and the Holland Purchase was west with its land office in Batavia. However, no more of this matter as the territory is beyond the Finger Lakes region.

In 1791, other visitors arrived in what is now our village. These men had been officers in the Revolutionary War, had heard of the rich lands of the lake region of central New York, and had come in a boat from Albany. It is well for us to know and remember their names, for although none of them became permanent residents of this region, they exerted a powerful influence upon it for some years. They were Elkanah Watson, his friends Philip VanCortlandt, and Jeremiah Van Rensaalear, and an older man Stephen N. Bayard. Coming as they did to spy out the land, these men immediately noticed the swift waters of the river dashing around the little islands, and to quote from Mrs. Wetmore's excellent article on the Bayard family, "they pictured the row of water wheels which might

be turned by these rapids extending a mile in length, and they saw in their mind's eye the prosperous settlements which would spring up around the mills." We who live in an age of electricity must remember that in 1790 water power was the only force except man's strength that could be used to grind grain, cut wood, or perform other mechanical tasks.

"About 1794, the Surveyor General on behalf of the State offered some of the Military Tract for sale and a company composed of Elkanah Watson, Stephen N. Bayard, Robert Throup and Nicholas Gouveneur bought the so-called State's Hundred Acres of lot No. 100 in the town of Junius (now Seneca Falls) for $2,060. The purchase covered the first ward of our village and a large portion of the water power.—A fifth interest in the Bayard Company was sold the next year to Wilhelmus Mynderse who came to this region at the age of twenty-eight to act as the company's agent. They built mills and added to their property until they finally owned all the water power and nearly two thousand acres of land."

The settlement of this region then progressed. Most of the settlers were farmers, and the ancestors of some of our own members were pioneers of this period. North of the village came the Cranes, Asa Smith, Halseys, Cuddebacks, Compsons, Nichols, and Munsons. Along the lake were the Harris, Chatham, and Bennet families. On the turnpike from Bridgeport to the village were the Moses, Larzelere, Beach, and Benham families. Wilhelmus Mynderse became a leader in the growing community. Good looking, well-educated, and affable, he was popular, not only locally, but he soon became friendly with the leading men in neighboring regions. Among the first of these friends outside the home area was Charles Williamson, agent for the Pulteney Purchase.

These two practical and imaginative men decided that the one way to promote the sale of land and the advancement of colonization in this region and farther west was to build a bridge across Cayuga Lake between the present Cayuga village and Bridgeport. The ferries then in operation were inadequate to care for the needs of the settlers. When we picture the difficulties in the way of such an enterprise in the year 1798, we can almost class its success with the atomic bomb as an achievement. I shall now quote a description of this enterprise written by Mr. W. H. Beach: "In May 1799, the bridge across the lake was begun. It was finished in September 1800. It was built by the Manhattan Company of New York and cost $150,000. It was one mile and eight rods long. In 1800, a traveller said of it 'this bridge is the longest in America, perhaps in the world, and yet five years ago the Indians possessed these shores, imbosomed in almost impenetrable woods'. The first bridge was built on mud sills, the second on piles. The third and last bridge was built on heavier piles and lasted until 1833. For many years Daniel Marsh kept the bridge. The travel along the turnpike and across the bridge was immense and the dividends to the stockholders enormous. It is stated that one year the dividends were 80%. Every five miles of the turnpike there was a toll gate. The toll was

three cents for a one-horse vehicle, and six cents for a two-horse wagon. — Cayuga and Bridgeport were thriving places with stores, shops, and taverns." I have heard Mr. Beach say that he could remember when there were nine places of entertainment for man and beast between Bridgeport and Fall Street in our village.

Now that we have an outline of the activities of this region between 1779 and 1800, let us fill it in somewhat with details as to the routes of travel, the means of travel, and how the colonists as a group cleared the land, established homes, and built up a community. There seem to have been two main ways of reaching this region from New England and New Jersey, the regions from which most of our early colonists migrated. Many came by water. I have been told that Lawrence VanCleef came with his wife and young child in a canoe, probably up the Delaware or Susquehanna rivers from New Jersey. Some of my own ancestors came with a group from New London, Connecticut, in a sloop through Long Island Sound to New York, up the Hudson river to Albany, where they sold the sloop and bought large flat-bottom row boats called at that time bateaux. They rowed up the Mohawk river to Oneida Lake, thence to the Seneca River, Cayuga Lake, and their destination near Aurora where relatives had already settled, after a journey of forty days. Some came on horse-back, the wife being seated on a pillion behind her husband; others came through in winter on sledges. Usually there was a tale of friends or relatives who had gone before and reported the land to be good.

After the pioneers had arrived in these new and unsettled lands, they had to make homes for themselves. The diary of Jason Smith tells us: "Clearing the land of the heavy forests was a Herculian task. Chopping was quite a business and was reduced to a system. Five dollars per acre was the standing price, and the chopper to leave three standing trees on an acre and five roll bodies—that is the bodies of five large trees to make log heaps against which to burn them up. In that way the timber was cut into logging length, about sixteen feet long, except the roll-bodies. Timber was no object. We would cut the best of oak and white wood and burn them up on the ground. A settler would chop a piece in winter for corn, and as soon as it got dry enough in the spring, he would set fire to it, burn the brush and if he could burn it all over, it would make an excellent preparation for the corn crop. If the season was likely to be too short to clear it all off he would plant his corn, potatoes, etc. among the blackened logs. — Ox teams were almost universally used. Logging bees were common. The small farmer who was not able to keep a team would attend all these bees, and when he got ready to have his logging done they would all turn in and help him. — From this derived the homely phrase used among jobbing legislators, — log-rolling."

Now let us consider for a few moments something of the life, the thoughts, and feelings of our pioneer ancestors. These men and women seem to have had superior minds in that we find few if any references to discomfort, discouragement, or fear. Although judged

by present day standards, pioneer days must have been lonely and wearisome. Nevertheless, these sturdy ancestors of ours carried on the life of their own forefathers as they had lived in faraway New England, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. In 1807, the Presbyterian Church was founded. Its first meeting was held in a barn on the farm of Colonel Sayre near Bridgeport. Before that time schools had already been established in various townships. Before 1816, a central school built of logs stood on the ground now occupied by the house owned by Mr. Thomas Masten, next to the Presbyterian Church. For some years preceding 1816, the log building was used week days for school sessions and Sundays for services of the Presbyterian Church. By 1817, a timber church for that denomination was built on the site of the present church, the land being given by Colonel Mynderse. Church and school activities, house-raisings, logging bees, husking bees, and such diversions were changes from the solitary family work on isolated farms. The one actual reference to organized employment of leisure time during this period is the minutes of the Junius Debating Society which was organized in the fall of 1811. The meetings began at six o'clock, were for men only, and a fine was imposed for absence. The profundity and abstractness of some of the questions debated baffle and amuse us today. Think of spending an evening discussing, "Whether ignorance be excusable or not." One hopes that there were a few humorists among the members.

By the year 1817, the Proprietors of Seneca as the owners of what is now our village called their Company, had come to feel that the settlement of the region along the river and consisting of what is now our First Ward, needed to be accelerated. These owners of the water power had been a close corporation, using it for their own mills and charging the settlers a rather heavy fee plus a tax for every bushel of grain ground, yard of cloth woven, or cord of wood sawed into planks. Prospective settlers learned of this high tariff system and passed on to Waterloo and other places where water power was not so expensive and land could be purchased near the river. West Cayuga or Bridgeport as we now call it, was larger than the Red Mills as our village was then known, and the non-resident owners of the water power and land along the river directed their agent, Wilhelmus Mynderse, to arrange for a favorable sale of what is now the First Ward of Seneca Falls, and other holdings of the Company. At this time the village is said to have consisted of twenty-seven structures made by men's hands. The Red Mills of the Company were on the bank of the river about opposite the Armitage, and other mills owned by the same company were farther up toward what is now Bridge Street. The finest residence was that of Wilhelmus Mynderse occupying the bluff above the river where our hospital now stands. The land to the west, now occupied by the Armitage were the Mynderse gardens and grounds. A row of poplar trees stood in front of his house. The Presbyterian Church and a few scattered buildings stood on what is now lower Cayuga Street, and along Fall Street there were a few low buildings evidently stores, and one gabled building that Miss Janet

Cowing has said was called Mechanic's Hall with two stories and of a rather pretentious style. The river with its small islands was then in its native state and no efforts had been made to span it with bridges as far as a picture we have indicates. Probably the bridge was down the river near where the old Rumsey Shop used to stand. This is a brief word sketch of the wood cut on the advertisement put out offering the village for sale.

A handsome poster, typographically admirable and phrased with dignity, dated June 7, 1817, and headed by a wood-cut of our village at that time, was prepared to advertise the land offered. It reads thus in part: "To men of Enterprise and Capital: An occasion is now offered for the profitable employment of both. The subscribers offer for sale their establishment at and near the Seneca falls in the County of Seneca, State of New York, commonly known by the appellation of the Red Mills. To those who know the country lying between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, and the particular advantages connected with this property no recommendation is necessary. — The whole establishment may be sold together or it may be divided into four classes." Then follows a description of the village as it was in 1817, besides a description of more distant holdings of this company. The advertisement is signed as follows W. Mynderse & Co.

N. B. The terms of sale may be known by application to any of the Gentlemen hereafter mentioned, Viz.
Stephen N. Bayard, Esq. or Messrs. Boyd and Suydam
No. 21 South Street, New York
John VanZandt, Esq., Albany
Jeremiah VanRensselear, Esq., Utica
Mr. William B. Annin, Boston, Mass.
Philadelphia, Lancaster, Northumberland, Pa.
Mr. Roswell Colt, Baltimore, Md.
Montreal, U. C.

June 17, 1817.
Henry Bowen Printer, Boston.

The picture heading the advertisement is signed, W. B. Annin, Jr.

We learn through Mrs. Wetmore's article referred to earlier that the advertisement brought no purchasers. The company already in financial difficulties dissolved. Stephen Bayard became owner of the majority of the shares, and Wilhelmus Mynderse still acted as agent, increasing his own holdings. The name was changed to the Bayard Company. The sons of Stephen Bayard, Samuel and William by name, had married sisters, Jane and Romainea Dashiel, and after a while the young couples came to live in the village to manage their father's business. William Bayard lived in the house on Washington Street later the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stanton. Samuel and his wife lived for a time in a house that occupied the site of the house now occupied by the Armitages. These men were good business managers, built additions to the mills, and prob-

ably reduced the price of land along the river, for settlers came into this region in larger numbers after 1817. During the 1820's a Seneca and Geneva Canal was built along the river which opened up a water route to this region, and later the Erie Canal improved this, so that water power and transportation facilities were abundant. By 1831, Seneca Falls became an incorporated village with Ansel Bascom as its first president. His home was on the present Green Street, and its site is now a part of the Wescott Rule property. This is the story of this region in the early 1800's. The development of our village and its environs in the following decades is another story.

The Cayuga Bridge

by

MR. CHARLES C. INSHAW

March 1935

The original act of Incorporation of the Cayuga Bridge Company was passed by Chapter 59 of the Laws of 1797, and the institution began its corporate life on March 28, 1797. Unlike other acts of incorporation, the law reads, "That this act be and is hereby declared to be a public act, and shall be construed benignly and favorably for every beneficial purpose herein intended." This act contains many conditions among which was a corporate existence of twenty-five years. There were no exclusive rights or privileges granted and the charter was to be forfeited unless the bridge was completed within three years. The company was given the right to select the location across the lake or the outlet. The importance of the bridge is appreciated to this day as the connecting link to the Genesee Country, and its rebuilding is now being recommended as a connection with the Cherry Valley Turnpike.

The building of the Cayuga Bridge was financed by some of the directors of the Manhattan Company of New York. This company of which Aaron Burr was a director, was incorporated to construct and operate a water system for the city of New York, and a clause in its charter also gave it authority to invest its surplus funds in financial transactions not inconsistent with the public interest. The Bank of North America had been incorporated in 1781, and given a monopoly of the banking business in all the states for the duration of the war. After the war, the first bank incorporated in New York was the Bank of New York, chartered in 1791, and it is still doing business under the name of the Bank of New York & Trust Company. This bank was strictly an Alexander Hamilton bank. The Manhattan Company, chartered in 1799, was the second bank, as the company began immediately to operate a banking business as well as a water company. It opened its office at 40 Wall Street where it is still doing business as the Bank of Manhattan Company, with assets of $583,000,000 and John Stewart Baker, a great-grandson of one of the original directors is the chairman of the Board of Directors. In 1803, Alexander Hamilton was at the head of a group who organized the Merchants Bank of New York, and in 1920, this bank merged with The Manhattan Company. In the history of banking, this company is known as "Burr's Bank."

Comfort Tyler was the designer of the bridge, and Israel Smith was in charge of construction. Both of these men where connected with Aaron Burr's expedition in the southwest. Unable to complete the bridge within the statutory time, the company applied to the Legislature for an extension of time and for a permit for increased capitalization and for exclusive privileges. Accordingly by the Act of March 1, 1799, Chapter 21, the corporate existence was extended to seventy-five years, and the capital was increased and May 1, 1801, was fixed for the date of completion. Also exclusive privileges were

granted for the full term for ferries, bridges, and boat crossings within three miles north and south of the bridge as then located but not completed.

At the time that the original charter was granted, John Harris (whose grandfather gave his name to Harrisburg, Penn.) perceiving the necessity of the crossing, was operating a ferry south of the bridge, in company with his brother-in-law, James Bennett, who lived on the west shore of Cayuga Lake near the cobblestone house built by Julius Bull. This public ferry was by law illegal and John Harris joined the bridge company and became one of its original incorporators, the others being Charles Williamson, Thomas Morris, (son of Robert Morris of Philadelphia), Wilhelmus Mynderse, and Joseph Annin, who with Benjamin Barton was a surveyor for Charles Williamson and laid out the city of Geneva. Joseph Annin later moved to Cayuga and was state senator from 1803 to 1807. The Annins are buried in the cemetery near the lake south of Cayuga village.

The bridge was finished before May 1, 1801, and successfully operated until the winter of 1808-09 when it was destroyed by the spring flow of ice. The investment and risk were great in those days but monopolies have ever been unpopular. The Cayuga Bridge Company was no exception and until the bridge was finally abandoned in 1857, the people waged a continual contest against the high tariffs and exclusive privileges of the company.

Within a few months after the destruction of the bridge in the winter of 1808, a location was selected about two miles north of the original location, crossing the outlet instead of the lake, and charging the same toll charges. This was essential to the company as its charter provided that if the bridge was impassable for eighty days, or destroyed and not rebuilt within eighteen months, the charter would be forfeited. Fearing this, the bridge was constructed over the narrower outlet and seemed to satisfy both the public and the company that the terms of the charter had been complied with. The location was within the three mile limit, and over the outlet, a choice permitted in the original charter.

With the rapid settlement of the land in the north part of the county, the people sought some means to shorten their travel, and in 1821, took the position that the charter had been forfeited, and applied to the Legislature for sanction to conduct a lottery for funds to build a Free Bridge north of the three mile limit established by the original bridge, and but one mile north of the bridge over the outlet. The Bridge Company at once raised strong objections and, in order to secure unquestioned rights, appealed to the Legislature for an Act to accomplish this purpose. Chapter 137, Laws of 1821, revived the old charter or rather confirmed it, but required the company to rebuild the old bridge and to operate both. The Lake Bridge was rebuilt before November 1, 1823, and was built upon piles. Both bridges were operated until 1825. It appears that there was a toll bridge at Montezuma with the same three mile monopoly, and unless a bridge could be built at the location of the proposed

Free Bridge, the entire territory was controlled by these two companies.

In the meantime, on April 7, 1815, a charter was granted to a Company known as the "Junius Turnpike Road Company" to build a road from the west end of the bridge over the outlet to Ashabel Bannister's house east of Vienna (now the east part of Phelps). The road at present running from the brick school house on the road to Auburn easterly to the bridge near Demont's crossing, is part of this old road. The approach to the old outlet bridge can be located on the bank of the outlet east of Demont's and traces of the old corduroy road over the marsh can also be easily seen.

In 1825, the storm of protest broke again and a proposal was made to construct the Free Bridge to be located three miles and sixteen rods north of the original lake bridge and one mile north of the outlet bridge. Funds were raised and labor contributed, (Nelson Roosevelt and Thomas Magee agreeing to construct the piers) and the bridge was under construction when the Cayuga Bridge Company obtained an injunction, claiming that the three mile limit applied to the outlet bridge as well as to the original bridge, thus attempting to enlarge the exclusive territory to eight miles instead of six miles. The Free Bridge was started in 1826. The material was all on the ground, but the litigation was extended over a period of four years until the injunction was dissolved in April 1830. The citizens then began work in earnest and the bridge was opened and ready for use just prior to the Fourth of July, 1830.

There is no record of a toll road in the early days going east and west at the location of the Free Bridge, yet it seems impossible that the building of the bridge should have been considered such a victory over the old Cayuga Bridge Company if no road had been accessible to cross the impassable swamps to what was later Dutcher's Corners.

The Cayuga Bridge from Cayuga to Bridgeport played an important part in the development of the country to the west and it made Bridgeport or West Cayuga a political meeting place for the politicians of the east and the west. The famous Titus Inn was located in Cayuga on the corner of Lake and Main streets and is mentioned often in the early newspapers. At Bridgeport there were at least six taverns, including those of General Christopher Baldy, which stood on the north side of the Public Square near the lake; Russell Pratt at whose inn Colonel Richardson quartered his troops on the way to Niagara in the War of 1812; Jacob Larzelere who kept a tavern on the turnpike just west of the bridge; and Henry Moses who conducted a blacksmith shop and tavern across the road from the latter. Luther Stevens, the first judge of Seneca County, had his law office at Bridgeport, and during the War of 1812, a bakery for making hard tack for the soldiers was located there. A map of the village of "West Cayuga" was filed in the office of the Cayuga County Clerk in 1801, and a copy was later filed in the Seneca County Clerk's office. This map shows the village lots and their dimensions.

The troubles of the Bridge Company were not limited to difficulties with the Free Bridge advocates because the early court reports show considerable litigation regarding the rights of the people to cross in boats or upon the ice in winter thus avoiding the use of the bridge and the payment of toll. In 1823, the court ruled that it was not an infringement of the exclusive rights of the Bridge Company to cross upon the ice, but in 1827, this opinion was reversed, the court holding that unless the start upon the ice was made within the three mile limit and ended within it, so that the whole trip was made within the exclusive territory of the Bridge Company there was no infringement. It appears the plaintiff in this case came across from a point six miles below the bridge but ended his trip at the foot of the bridge. Upon demand for toll, he paid the fee of twenty-five cents and later brought suit to recover his quarter. The case was carried through several courts, and on final decision it was held that the bridge tender had no right to collect the toll but as the plantiff had paid the fee willingly the legal maxim **"Volunti non fit injuria"** applied and he could not recover the toll paid. This is but one of the many interesting bridge cases found in the court reports.

The charter of the Manhattan Company may be found in the Laws of 1799, at Chapter 84. The original directors were: David Ludlow, John Watts, John B. Church, Brockholst Livingston, William Laight, Paschal N. Smith, Samuel Osgood, John Stephens, John Broome, John B. Cowles, (who was in 1795 given the right to collect tolls for sixty years for crossing the Harlem River), and Aaron Burr.

The charter of the Cayuga Bridge Company may be found in the Laws of 1797, dated March 28.

Steamboating On the Finger Lakes

CHARLES C. INSHAW

(This paper was delivered at the annual meeting of the New York State Historical Association at Geneva, September 19, 1941.)

Before the invention of the steam engine, water routes were the only economical means of transporting goods of bulk and weight. The great public works project of its time, — the Clinton Ditch — was an attempt to provide a water highway for moving bulky goods from the west to the eastern seaboard. Soon the early settlers on Cayuga Lake were turning their attention to the possibilities of lake transportation for the promotion of commerce. On December 15, 1819, the Cayuga Steamboat Company was organized for the purpose of building a steamboat "to run from one end of the lake to the other." This was only twelve years after Robert Fulton had succeeded in his attempt to make the Claremont run on the Hudson.

The keel of the new boat was laid in March 1820, and the hull was launched in May of the same year. Teams of oxen drew the machinery, which was made in Jersey City, overland to Ithaca. On June 1, 1829, the Enterprise with Captain Oliver Phelps in command, started from Renwick Point on her maiden voyage with a passenger list of one hundred and fifty people. This first boat, with a length of eighty feet and her beam a scant thirty feet, was hardly a streamliner. Her appearance is said to have been squat and tubby and not conducive to speed. The Enterprise served as a connecting link to pick up passengers from the Newburgh and Catskill Turnpike and then transport them to the north end of Cayuga Lake where the passengers, bound for the Genesee Country and the Holland Purchases, transferred to the Sherwood Stage Line which operated over the Seneca Turnpike. The Erie Canal had by this time been completed as far as Montezuma. Here the passengers were made comfortable in rowboats which ferried them on the Seneca River to the old Cayuga Bridge where Bissell's Six Day Stage Line whisked them away to the golden west.

The time table of the Steamboat Company called for the Enterprise to leave Ithaca at four a.m. Standard Time. She stopped at Ludlowville at five, Goodwin's Point at six, Frog Point at six-thirty, Sheldrake at eight, Union Springs at ten, and Cayuga Bridge at eleven a.m. On the return trip she left Cayuga at noon and was due at Ithaca at seven p.m. The fare was one dollar each way. The round trip required fifteen hours for the eighty-mile voyage.

For seven years the Enterprise plied the waters of Cayuga Lake alone until 1827, when she began to show her age. The Steamboat Company then decided to build a new boat. At Goodwin's Point a Mr. Annersley built a shipyard, and from it the Telemachus was launched in January 1828, and was towed to the inlet at Ithaca for the installation of her machinery. Her engine was the first Ithaca-built steamboat engine and was made by Phelps and Goodwin. On

May 8, 1828, the Telemachus stood out from the junction of Cascadilla Creek and the Inlet and began her maiden voyage.

In 1829, the Telemachus handled the passenger traffic alone while the Enterprise was given the humble honor of towing barges and canal boats. She was relegated to a watery grave on the west side of the Inlet a short time thereafter.

The Telemachus cruised at ten miles an hour with a top speed of twelve miles. She proved to be too slow to be profitable and her construction not suited to lake traffic. 1829 saw the launching of another steamer, the DeWitt Clinton. This boat cut several hours from the daily round trip, leaving Ithaca at six a.m., and returning at seven p.m.

In 1840, a boatman came to Cayuga Lake who was to be an outstanding figure in Cayuga Lake boating for almost a half century. He was Captain T. D. Wilcox, who had become acquainted with steamboats on the Hudson River under Robert Fulton and later piloted boats on Long Island Sound. If you ask any old settlers along Cayuga Lake who was the outstanding figure in lake transportation, the unanimous reply is, "Captain T. D. Wilcox."

When the Captain arrived in Ithaca, the Cayuga Lake Steamboat Company had two new steamers, the Simeon DeWitt and the Forest City under construction. Captain Wilcox promptly bought out the interest of the stockholders and became sole owner of the lake boats. By this time the Telemachus had long been abandoned and sunk and the DeWitt Clinton was obsolete. The new boats were much larger and developed more speed.

In 1855, the Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad leased the Cayuga and Susquehanna Railroad and it decided to buy up the lake steamers also and to consolidate the rail and water transportation. The price was agreed upon and Captain Wilcox sold out. The Simeon DeWitt was completely rebuilt and renamed the William E. Dodge in honor of a New York director of the railroad, and made the flagship of the two steamer fleet.

Two new boats were then added, the Beardsley and the Emily McAllister. The Beardsley was a small side wheeler and the Emily McAllister was a small propellor boat. These were probably second-hand boats and did not remain long upon the lake.

In 1856, Captain Wilcox repurchased control of the Steamboat Company. On April 21, 1856. Captain Wilcox piloted the new steamer, the Kate D. Morgan, on her first trip. By all accounts she was a beautiful boat, named after a wealthy resident of Aurora. She was a side-wheeler with a capacity of three hundred passengers. She usually tied up at Cayuga at night and made connection with the New York Central Railroad there and with the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad at Ithaca. Her engines and machinery were built in Ithaca by Treman-Cartwright and Company.

In 1857, Captain Wilcox built another steamer, the Sheldrake, the same size as the Kate D. Morgan. She was very powerful and

in her later years was the queen of the barge towing fleet, towing as many as fifteen loaded barges at once. Still operating as a steamer in 1888, she was in service for forty-two years finally going down in winter quarters at Renwick Point. The Sheldrake was built at Harris and Thomas Saw Mill and Boat Yard at Sheldrake Point.

The Aurora made her first trip in 1860. She was built at the Sheldrake boatyards and towed to Ithaca where her machinery was installed by Treman Brothers. The Aurora was slightly smaller than the Sheldrake and faster than the Kate D. Morgan.

Captain Wilcox sold his steamboat business in 1862 to Alonzo B. Cornell, and the following year Mr. Cornell sold the line to a Mr. Himrod of Aurora. Under his ownership the Ino was built in 1864. This boat was too small to succeed financially and was taken off the regular passenger schedule and used for excursions only.

Mr. Himrod soon sold the boat business to Charles M. Titus of Ithaca. Mr. Titus quickly unloaded the steamboat business with the result that it landed back in the lap of Captain Wilcox for the third time. Captain Wilcox celebrated this event by building a new boat and named it after himself. The T. D. Wilcox was launched in 1868, and remained in service for thirty years until she burned at her dock in Cayuga in 1899. The T. D. Wilcox offered complete service, including regular meals on board and an orchestra for entertainment. In 1888, after the death of Captain Wilcox, the boat was re-christened the Ithaca.

The best-known boat to the present generation was the Frontenac. She made her maiden trip in June 1870. Her cruising speed was seventeen miles per hour which was considered in those days as exceedingly fast. When you consider the fact that the local railroads of that day were running at the speed of sixteen to twenty miles an hour, it becomes apparent that the Frontenac offered as rapid transportation as could be had. This was the last boat built by Captain Wilcox. She was his pride and he personally piloted her.

Up until the 1870's the lake boats had enjoyed a monopoly in carrying the mails to all points along the lake as well as to communities adjacent to the lake. The mail contracts were the source of important revenue to the steamboat owners. Then the Cayuga Lake Railroad was being built along the eastern shore of the lake and the Geneva and Ithaca Railroad threatened to take away the mail of the western shore. With the loss of the mail contracts, the decline of steamboating began. After the death of Captain Wilcox in 1884, his heirs sold the boats to the Cayuga Lake Transportation Company in 1888.

In 1892, a wealthy New York City contractor, Robert L. Darragh, who had his summer home at Sheldrake, felt that the steamboat service was not up to the old standards. He decided to build two new boats "to make Sheldrake popular and to restore to Ithaca the trade of the north." The first of these boats was the Laura Darragh built at Newburgh by a Mr. Marvel. She was equipped with

a two hundred and fifty horsepower engine capable of driving her at fifteen miles per hour. She was one hundred and five feet in length and had a beam of eighteen and a half feet. The Laura Darragh arrived at Sheldrake in November 1893. In building her one hundred and five feet in length Mr. Marvel had failed to take into consideration the fact that the locks of the Erie Canal could only hold ninety-eight feet of boat. As a result seven feet had to be trimmed off her stern and piled on the deck to be replacd after she arrived safely in Cayuga Lake. The superstructure, built in Newburgh could not pass under the low canal bridges and had to be removed and then rebuilt at Sheldrake. Mr. Darragh's adventure in the boat business was cut short by illness and both the Laura Darragh and the second boat, the Red Jacket, were sold. These were the last boats built for passenger service on Cayuga Lake. Business was on the decline. Contracts for carrying the mails which had been a major source of income were now in the hands of the railroads on both the east and west shores and improvements in railroad transportation made the steamers seem slow.

The Cayuga Lake Steamboat Company passed into the ownership of Captain Melvin T. Brown of Syracuse in 1902. To the Cayuga Lake fleet he added several second-hand boats from Onondaga Lake including the Mohawk, the Commander, and the Iroquois. None of these boats proved profitable. They were used principally as excursion boats.

The end of real passenger service on the lake came on July 27, 1907, when the Frontenac with seventy passengers on board, mostly teachers returning from summer school at Cornell University, caught fire coming north out of Aurora. The fire was discovered when she was about eleven hundred feet off shore. The boat was driven straight for the shore in rather shallow water. A panic ensued, many passengers jumped overboard and eight persons lost their lives. This disaster was the final blow to regular passenger service. The smaller boats continued in use for picnic and excursion parties but with the advent of the modern automobile, interest in the boats declined and steamboating days were over.

The story of steamboating on Seneca, Keuka, and Canandaigua Lakes followed practically the same pattern as it did on Cayuga Lake. In 1796, Charles Williamson's sloop, the Alexander, later named Seneca, was launched on Seneca Lake in the presence of a vast assembly of people. The launching of the sloop being an unusual event, the people came from far and near to witness it, and among them was Major James Cochran, then a young man. At night the young people wanted to dance, and having a fiddle, young Cochran who was an amateur performer was pressed into service. In praise of his ability a gentleman said at the suppêr table, "He is fit for Congress," and the remark being favorably received by the assembly, he was nominated and elected to a seat in Congress from the district which then included all of New York west of Albany. "So," says Major Cochran, "I fiddled my way into Congress."

In 1814, the sloop, Robert Throup, was launched and sailed on the waters of Seneca Lake. The first steam craft, the Seneca Chief, was purchased in 1832, by John R. Johnston and Richard Stevens and the following year was lengthened and improved and renamed the Geneva. In 1835, the steamboat Richard Stevens was built, followed by the Chemung, the Canadesaga, the Seneca, and the Ben Loder, the latter boat being built in 1849. In 1893, four other boats were on the lake, the Onondaga, the Schuyler, the W. B. Dunning, and the Otetiani. From 1894 onward, interest in steamboats declined due to the competition of the railroads so that at present no passenger boats operate on Seneca Lake.

In 1884, occurred the death of Charles J. Folger, prominent Geneva attorney, Secretary of the Treasury, and former Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. Many former colleagues came to the funeral by train from Washington to Watkins, and then transferred to the steamboat, the Ben Loder, and proceeded to Geneva. President Chester A. Arthur and the next president, Grover Cleveland who just two years before had defeated Folger for the Governorship of the State, were in the party and rode in the same carriage as the procession passed through the city streets. The assembled multitude was amazed to see these two men who had long been political opponents in New York, chatting peaceably together and apparently on the friendliest terms.

Partly within the boundaries of little Yates County and partly within Steuben lies Keuka Lake, as picturesque a body of water as one could wish for. Its original name was Crooked Lake because the north end of the lake is divided into two arms or branches by a bold promontory which rises seven hundred feet above the water and is called Bluff Point. In 1835, the Crooked Lake Canal, connecting Keuka Lake with Seneca by a series of twenty-seven locks, was completed. This brought to Yates County an importance not before enjoyed and following it was an era of prosperity that even the most ardent pioneer enthusiast had never dreamed of. The first steamboat, the Keuka, appeared on the lake in 1837, and for three-quarters of a century thereafter, the Lake was never without steamboat service. The last boat on the lake was the Mary Bell which cost, with her furnishings, forty thousand dollars and was licensed to carry six hundred passengers. Yates County folks have never lost interest in the beautiful lake which every summer is dotted with private pleasure craft.

In the prosperous days of the old lake steamboats, life was simple and more serene. It was a customary sight on a summer morning to see whole families gathered on the dock with lunch baskets packed with picnic dinners waiting for the Frontenac or the Kate D. Morgan to pick them up for a holiday trip to Ithaca, and family picnics on the wonderful Cornell campus. When the whistle blew for Cayuga, it was agreed by all that it had been a wonderful day to be remembered for months and perhaps for years to come.

The Junius Debating Society

by

DR. FREDERICK W. LESTER

December 14, 1931

The original manuscript from which this sketch is largely taken is a newspaper bound pamphlet on discolored yellowish paper which was given to the Seneca Falls Historical Society by the late Stephen Monroe. It may be remembered that Mrs. Monroe's maiden name was Nettie Magee. She was a granddaughter of Dr. Thomas C. Magee. The manuscript is written in ink by one, Thomas W. Roosevelt who was the secretary of the Junius Debating Society. It is covered on the outside with a portion of an old newspaper. This newspaper seems to be an Albany, New York, publication, as it is covered with advertisements from that city. Some of them are rather amusing to read, and as the name appears at the bottom of some of them, the name of the newspaper is presumably the Albany Advertiser, and the date shown is somewhere near January 1, 1810.

For more than fifty years before this, Debating Clubs had long been popular in England. We read that Goldsmith in 1760, frequented a Debating Club called the Robin Hood, which used to meet in Temple Bar in London, and in which the great Edmund Burke, while yet a student, had first tried his powers. Burke, Sheridan, Fox, Canning, and even the great Dr. Johnson were frequent attendants and debaters at these meetings. What was more natural then that the descendants of these literary minded English who came to America and settled on its eastern coast, in New Jersey, New York, and New England, should bring with them this idea of the debating club?

The original members of this club were such men. They came largely from the seaboard towns of the Atlantic coast, especially New York, and New Jersey, and took up farming lands in Central New York, after the Revolutionary War. Their descendants live here today, and the debating club's idea is not altogether forgotten in the neighborhood of Magee. I quite well remember attending a meeting of the Magee Corners' Debating Club with one William VanArsdale, about forty-five years ago, and I have heard of an occasional debate in the same neighborhood since.

At a meeting, the 28th day of November 1811, called at the home of Lewis Winans, a resident of the town of Junius, there was organized a society. The purpose of this society as stated by the Rev. Samuel Messenger who was called to the chair was that the members form themselves into a society for the purpose of cultivating amity, diffusing knowledge, and dispelling vice, and "That our minds may be led to reflection." The meeting was dedicated by a very solemn and "scientifical" prayer by the Rev. Samuel Messenger.

Let us consider some of the facts surrounding this rather remarkable meeting. Let us recall that its date was November 28,

late in the fall when snow might be expected to be on the ground, and roads in that early day little better than cow paths. Let us reflect that dwelling houses were few and far between, that heating was accomplished by open fireplace almost entirely, and that lighting was provided by tallow candles. Can we not wonder at the intense thirst for knowledge and improvement which actuated these men in endeavoring to band themselves together into a society for mental improvement?

The following were the by-laws, as proposed and adopted at the meeting:

Voted—That Dr. Thomas C. Magee, together with the chairman and secretary be a committee to form a Constitution for said society.

Voted—That we meet weekly, on Thursday evening at six on the clock, p.m.

Voted—That the question next Thursday evening to be discussed is "Whether Indolence be More a Weakness than a Vice?"

Voted—That the second question to be debated be "Whether Ignorance Be Excusable or not?"

Voted—That four persons should debate on each question and that they should be taken up in alphabetical order. The first should have his choice, the second should have his choice, the third, if the two first are not on one side, to have his choice.

Voted—That this meeting be adjourned to the house of Mr. Abraham Howell at the time before specified.

At the following meeting the committee forming the Constitution reported as follows:

"We do ordain and establish this our Constitution.

Art. 1st. That this society shall be known by the appellation of the Junius Apagogical Society.

Art. 2nd. That this society shall consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer who are to be elected on the evening of the first Thursday in each month by the members then present.

Art 3rd. That each person before they are considered a member of this society shall sign this our Constitution and each person becoming a member after the adoption thereof shall be by vote of said society or the members then present.

Art. 4th. That this society shall meet weekly or otherwise, viz., on Thursday evening at such place and time as they shall from time to time adjourn.

Art. 5th. All subjects of debate proposed by said society shall be admitted if approved by a majority of votes of the members present prior to the evening of their being discussed.

Art. 6th. All questions discussed by said society shall be decided by the members then present and a majority of votes shall be

considered a Decision.

Art. 7th. That each member debating on a question shall have the privilege of speaking twice on each question.

Art. 8th. That each and everyone of the members belonging to said society shall observe the following order, viz., that there shall be no anger or resentment shown in said society, no whispering or loud laughter, no derision or satirical language and that each member shall conduct himself decently and discreetly as members of such societies ought to do.

Art. 9th. That each member deviating from this our standard or may be accounted guilty of mal conduct, shall for every such offense pay the sum of six cents into our treasury or receive a reprimand from the president as the offender may elect.

Art. 10th. Each member arising to speak shall address the president.

Art. 11th. It shall be the duty of the president to keep order, and judge and determine when any of the members have violated the Laws of said society.

Art. 12th. That it shall be the duty of the vice-president in case of the president's absence or other business to attend to, to serve as president.

Art. 13th. That it shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive such monies as shall be paid by fines or otherwise belong to said society and safely keep the same until otherwise ordered by society.

Art. 14th. That it shall be the duty of the secretary to minute the proceedings of said society and record such things as may be deemed proper.

Art. 15th. That this society shall have full power to make such Amendments or by-laws as they shall from time to time think proper and when made shall be binding on every member.

Art. 16th. That this meeting open and close by prayer."

The original signers were as follows: Samuel Messenger, Jr., Thomas W. Roosevelt, Stephen Crane, Thomas C. Magee, James Johnson, Rufus Barns, Benjamin Sayre, Thomas Armstrong, Gideon Burtch, Richard Thomas, Ezra Degarmo, Asa Smith, Peter Degarmo, Abraham Howell, Richard Howell, Hiram Woodworth, Richard Thomas, Jr., Hermon Allfort, Jedediah Sayre, Isaac Smith, William Heaton, Zebulon Landen.

After adopting and signing the Constitution, the following persons were elected to office, viz.;

President—Rev. Samuel Messenger.
Vice-president—Dr. Thomas C. Magee.
Secretary—Thomas W. Roosevelt.
Treasurer— Mr. Abraham Howell.

It was voted that the aforesaid Constitution and other proceedings of the meeting be inserted in a book kept by the Secretary.

"Voted—That any member shall have the privilege of making remarks after the disputants have done, by the leave of the president.

Voted—That no member should have the privilege of speaking more than twice on any one question."

The society then proceeded to solve the afore-mentioned questions.

"Voted—That the subject for debate at the next meeting shall be "Whether Pride be Justifiable or not?"

I may say that in the able debate that followed on this subject, which was participated in by Asa Smith, and Hiram Woodworth on one side, and Stephen Crane and Peter Degarmo on the other side, it was decided that pride was not justifiable.

The next subject for debate, as recorded in the minutes of the secretary, was the question, "Is there a disinterested benevolence or is there not?" The decision rendered, after a debate by four of the members, was: There is a disinterested benevolence.

The next regular meeting of the society was scheduled to take place at the house of Stephen Crane, and the questions brought up were indeed peculiar ones, when we consider them from our present day point of view. It was voted at this meeting that the yeas and nays be declared by the president and a majority should constitute a decision. Two questions taken up at this meeting were: "Is the life of a scholar preferable to the life of a farmer?" That of the farmer won the decision. The next question was, "Which is most injurious to society, Indolence or Ignorance?" It was decided that ignorance was the most injurious.

At this same meeting the following by-law was passed: "Any members agreeing to debate and not attending shall pay a fine of twelve and one half cents, unless a satisfactory excuse is given."

The next meeting was the 19th of December, 1811. It was held at the home of Lewis Winans. The seventh question to be solved was proposed for the next meeting: "Which is the most injurious to society, Prodigality or Covetousness?" The eighth question was, "Whether Conscience is an original faculty or not?" This meeting was adjourned to Stephen Crane's on Thursday evening, the 26th of December. The debate was duly carried out, and the answer as to prodigality or covetousness was decided. Covetousness was the one chosen. As to the eighth question, it was decided that conscience is an original faculty of the mind.

Two more questions were discussed as follows: "Which is the truest mark of a great mind, to resent an injury or forgive it?" This was decided to forgive it. The other question was, "Whether prayer be a duty encumbent on all men or only a part?" This was very sensibly decided that it was a duty of all after a rather stiff debate by four of the members of the society.

The next meeting was to be at the house of the Rev. Samuel Messenger, on January 2, 1812, and in spite of deep snow and freez-

ing weather, the society took up the questions as follows: "Ought the reading of novels to be approved or not?" Needless to say, this was decided by these Puritan brethren in the negative, although it is recorded that the point was contested strongly by Dr. Thomas Magee and Mr. Richard Thomas, Jr. A much more difficult question was then taken up, viz., "Were the different complexions of the human family original or the effect of climate and custom?" Just how they arrived at their conclusion it is difficult for us to imagine, but the question was decided that the different complexions of the human family came from climate and custom.

We hear very little of the more loquacious sex in these meetings, there being no mention of a woman's voice entering into these debates. This is not, however, so strange as it may seem, as in that day women were far from having an education or the standing of the present day. It is rather a notable fact, brought out by recent essayists that the rise of women to power and importance was exactly almost to a day coincident with the appreciation of their financial power, and when it became manifest that they were able to wield this power, they were accorded not only an equal rating with the opposite sex but the freedom of the ballot.

At the following meeting, two of the disputants being absent, a fine of six cents each was imposed by the chair.

The thirteenth question was brought out, viz., "That if A defrauded B out of a certain sum, is it just that B defraud A to retaliate?" After the debate it was recorded that the decision was in the negative.

The next question was, "Is it more just to retain a black man in slavery than a white man?" This also seems to have been decided in the negative, which is extremely significant inasmuch as slavery in 1812 was an institution very well scattered over the earth, not only in the southern United States but in the northern, which indicates the germination of the beginning of the abolition of slavery.

The question which came up next was: "Is Sincerity a test of truth or not?" It seems to have been decided in the negative also, after being debated by Dr. Thomas C. Magee, Peter Degarmo, Rufus Barns, and Gideon Burtch.

A more social question is the next: "Which is more injurious to society, the Slanderer or the Thief?" It was decided the Slanderer.

The meeting following was held at the home of Isaac Smith, January 23, 1812, when in its wisdom it went into further debate. The first question to come up was: "Is Mankind, in whatever state they are, capable of loving and fearing one object at the same time or not?" It was decided in the negative, after a hot debate. It was also decided that Hiram Woodworth be subject to fine for non-attendance. Checked underneath as "Fine Received, $.06".

These meetings continued all through the winter. The next meeting took up the eighteenth question, viz., "Does mankind ever

act contrary to his will or not?" This momentous question was decided in the affirmative, but the next one, "Does mankind, in general, seek most after riches or honor?" was, after a long debate, marked, "No decision."

It was furthermore decided that this meeting adjourn to the house of Mrs. Woodworth's Wid. next Thursday. They were now along in the month of February, and the record discloses that frequent absences took place, doubtless, on account of the storms and distances.

The twentieth question for debate, viz., "Which is preferable, the Credit of the Poor or Rich?" It was debated by two in favor of the poor and two in favor of the rich, and finally decided that the credit of the poor was preferable.

It would appear that the society was running rather short on subjects from some of the latter ones. The next one, viz., "Which is most to be desired: Health or Contentment?" This seemed to be a puzzler for the Junius Debating Society. It was resolved that it should be taken up at the next meeting, which was to be at the house of Thomas W. Roosevelt. Further statement here is shown, that there was now deposited in the hands of the treasurer, Gideon Burtch, the sum of 12½ cents on this 27th day of February, 1812. I do not think the above question was ever decided, as no record is given us of the decision, and almost abruptly at this point the manuscript terminates. It is to be feared that posterity will never know what the opinion of the Junius Debating Society was on this question. The disputants on the side of Contentment are recorded as William Heaton and Gideon Burtch, and on the side of Health, as no other than Dr. Magee where he properly belonged, and Mr. Thomas W. Roosevelt.

The next adjournment to the home of the Rev. Samuel Messenger, where this wordy controversy was to be carried out, gives us no record except the final resolution that this meeting adjourn until the first Thursday in next December to meet at the house of Thomas W. Roosevelt at six o'clock p.m. This concluded the record of the Junius Debating Society, and leaves us in some degree of doubt as to its fate. No more records have as yet been unearthed, but should they be, the subject could be reopened, and the information concerning this society further extended.

In closing the account of this rather unusual association, I would say, that it seems quite proper to have made a record for preservation of the minutes of the Junius Debating Society.

Quaint Sayings and Doings of Older Seneca Falls

by
MISS CAROLINE F. LESTER
1941

The Constitution of the Seneca Falls Historical Society names as one of its activities "The collection and preservation of local historical material." This article of our constitution is being carried out most faithfully in a tangible and physical way as our over-flowing museum assures you. Likewise each year papers recording the genealogical history and the noteworthy achievements of our pioneer families are prepared and read by members of this society. There is, however, another type of worthwhile historical material that deserves a place in our files. This is the material that comes from the intercourse of the people in a community. For that reason I am bringing to your attention in this paper memories of a phase of that intercourse as I have observed it and been a part of it in our village, under the title of **Quaint Sayings and Doings of Older Seneca Falls.** What I offer tonight is but the nucleus of what in time may be a longer paper, for it is my belief that many of you sitting here will be reminded of similar and no doubt better material as I read, that can be incorporated into a more complete paper.

One of our citizens of the middle pioneer period was Milton Hoag. We all remember this vigorous man, owner and proprietor of the Hoag Hotel for many years, owner and driver of fine horses, director of the National Exchange Bank and in other ways an important citizen. It is with Mr. Hoag's apple orchard, however, that I am concerned just now. During the early 1890's Mr. Hoag acquired what was then known as the Augustus Metcalf farm a mile or two north of the village on the Gravel road. The farm was a new interest for Mr. Hoag and every day, one saw him driving some of his fine horses back and forth as he visited it. With the instincts of a good inn-keeper, he put every building and fence into good condition, and finally attacked the apple orchard south of the house, bordering the highway. After having the high old trees well pruned some sense of the need of fruit trees caused him to have cakes of yellow laundry soap wired to the branches, for of course at that time little was known in this region of spraying fruit trees. The soap on the apple trees was soon noticed by passers by and much commented on by the old fashioned dirt farmers of the gravel road. Finally news of the novelty seeped into the village and people drove past the orchard to see if the tale were true. I myself many times saw those cakes of yellow soap, but finally rain and snow dissolved them and Mr. Hoag later sold the farm.

In most towns and villages each generation has its "village cut-up," and I recall two young men, the tales of whose small pranks and practical jokes were passed about and caused many a laugh. The first of these was Will Seymour whose only occupation was making the powerful leaven from a secret recipe that was the germ

for the National Yeast Company, and helping spend the money that that company made in its days of prosperity. We all recall when he had the Hungarian Gypsy Band come to our village, — that band that introduced to us Schubert's Serenade, Listz's Hungarian Rhapsody, and other beautiful music that few had heard before. We likewise recall how Will Seymour guaranteed them their price and made up the deficit, how he passed out tickets to us school children, and made everybody happy. His love of playing practical jokes was contageous and the tales of them were passed from friend to friend. Two of these are enough to show the type: How he tied large and lucious peaches on a small tree that his mother had planted the year before and called her to see the fruit it was bearing the first year. How when he and others were presenting some expensive china as a wedding gift to a friend, he stumbled and dropped the piece he was carrying to the annoyance of the group only to produce a laugh later when it was discovered that he had substituted a cheap piece and had stumbled purposely.

The second "village cut-up" was Stephen Monroe, a different type of man, but one who loved to do unusual things, often very kind ones. I remember hearing the tale of his arranging a surprise party "on" Mrs. Lum as the phrasing was, and summoning her neighbors to be at her house at a certain hour with their own refreshments. Few here remember Mrs. Lum, who lived and kept boarders where the late Mrs. A. B. Pollard lived, but the word "grim" describes her, grim and unbending she was, but even so, received her guests hospitably and all went well until a carpet bag was brought with the news that some distant relatives were entering. The idea of more guests was not a welcome one to Mrs. Lum, and when a poorly dressed couple entered, her pride was touched, and last of all was she to recognize Stephen Monroe and some friend dressed in old-fashioned clothes, masquerading as relatives of the family. Mr. Lum enjoyed the joke, Mrs. Lum endured it.

Stephen Monroe was a clerk in the Hoskins store and kept bachelor apartments above, where he entertained his friends. Many were the interesting parties with music, reading of poetry, and humorous prose for the entertainment, and lavish refreshments for the inner man. Once or twice he gathered a group of lone and forlorn females as his guests for such a party on New Year's Day — that was certainly a "quaint doing" for a man in his twenties, and a kind one. This tale of small happenings may sound somewhat strange to young ears, but think of the time, when there were no paved streets, no automobiles, no street lights after midnight, and no moving pictures in our village. Mild domestic entertainment had to suffice.

Now let us turn to a few of the sayings of some of those earlier days. There is a small sheaf of amusing remarks that I have long treasured in my memory. Some of us frequently quote the sayings of Frank Owens, an old resident who had lived some years in Brooklyn, I believe, prior to the big Masonic fair, held soon after the erection of the present Masonic Temple. This fair was held

every night for a week, and Mr. Owens who had come to town to help the Masons celebrate properly had been in attendance day and night. As the days passed and friendship had ripened into conviviality, Mr. Owens was becoming a little the worse for the many reunions, and he returned one evening to the hotel in a gently despondent mood. When asked by the attendant if he wished this or that food or beverage, he replied, "Just give me a glass of water and a few kind words."

Then there was George Seeley, son of Carleton Seeley, who was a prominent lawyer in the 1830's and 40's. George had gone to the Civil War, returned uninjured, and settled into a gentleman of leisure. His objection to supporting himself was a subject of remark among his friends, but he always replied, "I'll never work as long as I have good health, and when I'm sick, I'll go to the Soldier's Home."

All of us remember Mr. Charles A. Hawley, one of the most able and dignified of our citizens. Few, however, know that he was a man of brilliant wit. One of his quick replies belongs here and will please you, I know. Like many devoted wives, Mrs. Hawley often made her husband a present, and that present sometimes took the form of a gift that she and the family would enjoy as well as the actual recipient. It is told that on a certain occasion, Mrs. Hawley presented her husband with a handsome dinner set, and after he had regarded its beauty with courteous attention, he said, "I don't know of anything you could have given me that would have pleased me more except a black silk dress."

The sayings and doings of Tom Cory often amused the people of our village a generation or more ago. Tom Cory was a man of native ability but scant education. During his early twenties he worked in a neighboring town, and became interested in a fine young woman whom he wanted to marry. All too soon his work there ceased and he was forced to return home and the difficulty of communicating with the "girl friend" was a real problem, for he knew all too well that his written words would destroy the good opinion his spoken words had established. He confided his difficulty to one of his better educated friends and the matter was agreeably settled by Will Miller writing the love letters and Tom Cory marrying the girl. In after years when Tom Cory was a father and regular church attendant, he listened one Sunday to a sermon by Dr. Dickinson on the strictly theological subject of the Presbyterian Church and the doctrine of election. A few days later Dr. Dickinson met Tom in the street and was advised to leave "politics" out of the pulpit. One of Tom Cory's expressions I have frequently felt a great help in times of stress. "Thank God our future days are o'er."

In this connection we should not neglect to record the reply made by one of our townsmen of somewhat humble origin when presented to the mother of a school friend of real gentility. The gracious mother was smiling her welcome to the youth when he said, "Much obliged to meet you ma'am."

And this extraordinary utterance was told me when I was but a child by one who knew it to be true. How I have happened to remember it all these years I do not know. When one of the gilded youth of this village was asked if he could waltz, this was his reply. "I am not sufficiently conversant with the minutae of the round dances to be able to perform them with any degree of accuracy by giving ease to myself or grace to my partner."

Thus far we have recorded the sayings and doings of those of more or less mature years, but we must not forget those of some of the youngsters, for in some cases they are worth remembering, — especially the doings. Some of you may recall having heard of the Hallowe'en prank of a group of boys some of whom sit before me when Mr. Cornelius S. Hood was village president. Under able leadership of one of their number these boys filled their pockets with beans and silently stationed themselves on the four sides of the Hood home, and at a given signal threw handfuls of dry beans at the windows of the lower floor. Within the lighted room they could see the peaceful family group transform itself into one of agitation after the first volley, so they very naturally made a second attack. The agitation became fury in no time and after watching Mr. Hood seize his hat and overcoat, the boys sent a few final shots and took to their heels. Mr. Hood watched the running boys and seeing that they made a detour at about 61 Cayuga St. followed as swiftly as possible and soon was ringing our doorbell. His arraignment of the boys was forceful and wrathful until my placid mother pointed out that the boys had bombarded his house with beans, not stones, and that the night was Hallowe'en. In fact, she suggested that the boys were probably giving the village president a complimentary salute. Of course Mr. Hood had forgotten that the night was Hallowe'en, and good naturedly laughed at the joke in his usual genial way.

Then there was the time when my brother George and some of his friends were taking a walk in Swaby's woods one October afternoon and were struck with the desire to witness the effect of a freight train locomotive encountering a pyramid of pumpkins. Acres of yellow pumpkins were in sight and the freight due in half an hour. The idea was carried out with neatness and dispatch, and the boys enjoyed a sense of satisfaction as they viewed broken and scattered pumpkins on either side of the track. Their ramble was resumed in the October sunshine and they did not see Mr. Fred Swaby's reaction when he reached the scene they had so thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Swaby likewise seemed to feel that 61 Cayuga St. was the place to receive satisfaction, and my mother entirely sympathized with the owner of the pumpkins. After our evening meal and a parental lecture on property ownership, my brother walked up to the Swaby farm with an apology on his lips and a two dollar bill in his pocket. Again good nature prevailed, my brother was forgiven and returned with the two dollar bill and the understanding that it never must happen again.

At the risk of boring you with family tales I feel I must relate one more, for it was told me many years after it had happen-

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ed by one of the actors in the episode, Laura Gay. For nearly half a century, this has remained a classic act of village chivalry to her. It was during the early days of Miss Drake's supervision of student Latin and morals in Mynderse Academy when she saw a note being received by a certain boy during study hours. The watchful eye of a certain girl suggested the writer of the note, and Miss Drake's ideas of propriety demanded that she should say, "George Lester, bring that note to the desk." Without a moment's hesitation, George Lester put the note into his mouth, chewed and swallowed it and walked to the desk. Those of you who had the privilege of studying under Miss Drake know full well what the writer of that note escaped.

One of the well known families of this village whose original acts and remarks were often told when I was a young girl, was the Henion family. There are three worthwhile tales of members of this family that I feel should be recorded. The first is a story that I have often heard my father tell of the head of the house, Squire Henion, as he was called, who was notary public and police justice here for many years. I can just remember the tall, burly, old man who was somewhat of a local Falstaff. He did not take part in the Civil War, but after it was over and the G. A. R. encampments came to be popular in the mid 70's, he felt that that part of the conflict would be highly enjoyable. So as he was a good talker and an agreeable companion he was invited to make one of a group to attend a national encampment at Cleveland. A feature of the festivities was a banquet which notable generals attended as speakers. At the close of the banquet Squire Henion resplendent with badges, pushed forward to shake the speaker's hand. The famous general, I think it was Meade, the hero of Gettysburg, said to him, "and what was your branch of the service, my good man?" The squire quickly replied, "The Cavalry, General." The general, giving the corpulant figure a swift glance said, "You seem pretty heavy for the Cavalry." But the Squire unabashed replied suavely, "I rode lighter in those days," and passed down the line.

Squire Henion and his wife had three daughters who were always known as the Henion girls. Miss Evelyn, the youngest, was much regarded as the chaperone when I was a young girl, and her tact and humor and good nature endeared her to us all. One summer we persuaded her to go with us for a week's camping party at the lake in the cottage owned at that time by our honored director, Mr. Story. The party consisted of six girls, but there were always more than six boys in the offing. When we girls saw a boy or two approaching in his St. Lawrence boat, we usually dashed to the end of the pier and shouted a friendly welcome. Miss Evelyn never corrected us for our hoydenish behavior, but finally showed us up to ourselves in a clever way. The cottage was without a name, and our gallant host suggested that we provide one for it. None of us was able to bring forth a name of any beauty or originality until Miss Evelyn told us her famous riddle of why is heaven like a baby. The answer is as follows: Heaven is a home. A home is where the

heart is. The heart is in the chest. A chest is a box. A box is a growing plant, a growing plant is a beautiful thing, a beautiful thing is a primrose, a primrose is a pronounced yeller, and a pronounced yeller is a baby. Immediately it was pointed out to us that as we were pronounced yellers we could call the cottage primrose, and primrose it was called for many years.

My last anecdote of the Henion girls portrays a bit of a picture of their older years that has always seemed very natural and rather lovely. In the old days when the family lived on Bayard St., Mrs. Henion always "took boarders", as it was called, to augment the family income. Among the permanent table boarders was Mr. James Chapin, a bachelor and family friend of long standing. For many years this connection continued and was not broken until after the death of their parents, when the girls bought a lot and built a house on the north side of the river. As the years passed, Mr. Chapin made a practice of calling on his old friends at intervals and spending an evening talking over old times. With the passing of time all of these old friends became less active in mind and body and the sprightliness of their intercourse waned from season to season. One evening in autumn, Mr, Chapin appeared at the hospitable door of the Henion sisters. He was greeted cordially and after a half hour, the two younger sisters, Miss Mary and Miss Evelyn, withdrew from the front parlor and left Miss Anna and Mr. Chapin together. Some of you can picture the scene. The mid-victorian parlor with its horsehair furniture, family portraits and the two old friends visiting together. Finally the usual time of Mr. Chapin's departure was approaching and Miss Mary and Miss Evelyn decided that they should return to the parlor to say good-night. As they were entering the door, what was their surprise to see Miss Anna asleep in her chair, and Mr. Chapin asleep in his. A bit of gentle noise aroused them and neither realizing what had happened, or at least not admitting it, a general good-night was said. Not until after Mr. Chapin had left was laughter permitted.

Anecdotes like these can be produced in every small community. Life is made up of quaint encounters and good-natured situations, so why not make a record of them from time to time. If we could find a manuscript describing such a phase of the life of our village a century ago, how we should prize it! For this reason, if for no other, it seems wise to present and preserve this kind of record.

The Cycle of the Seneca Falls Drygoods Store

by

MISS CAROLINE F. LESTER

1946

In developing the business of exchanging one product for another in the evolution of the human race, necessity and convenience went hand in hand. Barter was the first type of human enterprise, no doubt, and was carried on informally by the roadside, in the home, or in a general market place. With the use of money as a common medium of exchange, market days, shops, and stores arose. At first the general stores were very common in this region, as in all small communities where all kinds of articles from butter to blankets, dishes to wallpaper, and drugs to dictionaries were on sale. One, Mr. Chapman, kept such a store in the 1820's and 30's and today the drugstores have resumed that type of trade. During the last half of the 1800's, however, there arose a tendency to separate the type of articles sold by one merchant, and hardware stores, grocery stores, and dry goods stores appeared in cities and villages.

My personal memory of the main street of our village dates to about 1875. About that time I began to be allowed to walk down the street alone as far as Hoskins' corner. It was an engaging place for a small girl to look at a "store window," for that was the first dry goods store of my acquaintance. There were large plate glass windows on the west side, at the corner, and two on the south side with a large door between, likewise with glass windows, so that there was much to see. The aisle leading from the front of the store had counters on each side, and extended to the extreme rear where there was a partially partitioned office-like corner on the east. It was in that somewhat elevated and aloof place with its long counter that Charles L. Hoskins, the owner and founder of the business, frequently stood looking through big ledgers and long lists. Charles Lansing Hoskins was a small man with a somewhat long face, a Roman nose, and piercing eyes. I do not recall him selling goods, but I can see him in my mind's eye as he stood at the desk in the rear of the store, as he hoed a bit in the garden of his Cayuga Street home, or drove his phaeton and gentle horse about the village. As long as he lived the goods in the store were marked in the old-fashioned way, — a handkerchief would be 2 and 6; ribbon, 1 and 6 a yard; silk for a dress, twelve shillings, or ten shillings, or twenty, depending on the quality. It may interest you to know that 2 and 6 was 31 cents, that is, 25 cents or two shillings plus 6 cents; 1 and 6 was 18 cents. Ten shillings was a dollar and a quarter, etc. In later years I have come to believe that those odd cents and quaint prices left Mr. Hoskins considerably richer at the end of the year than he otherwise might have been.

Mr. Lansing S. Hoskins, only son of Charles L. Hoskins, was long associated with him in business and carried on the tradition of fine merchandise and able management. Mr. Lansing Hoskins, as

he was always called, was always faultlessly dressed in dignified Oxford grey or black coat and vest with Oxford grey striped trousers, immaculate linen, and sartorially correct to the last detail. He occasionally sold goods over the counter, but his able clerk, Stephen Monroe, was an adept in that part of the business, in my early days, and entirely trusted by the management. Stephen Monroe deserves an entire paper rather than mere mention here. That brown-eyed, affable, natural salesman was a quaint and familiar figure in this village for half a century. He severed his connection with the Hoskins store in the late 1880's and his place was taken by Charles L. Hoskins 2nd, second son of Mr. Lansing Hoskins. This arrangement continued for a few years and finally the family employed competent clerks who carried on the tradition of the store as ably as possible under rapidly changing business conditions. However, it had carried on a century of honorable and profitable drygoods business when Hoskins' corner became the Town Clock Garage under the management of Mr. Clarence Conkey.

It may be appropriately said that Charles Lansing Hoskins, founder of the Hoskins' business was one of the finer pioneer settlers of this region. One always finds his name as an officer and promoter of all worthwhile village enterprises of his generation: the Seneca Falls Academy, the Presbyterian Church, and even a signer of the "resolutions" for women's suffrage at the convention held in this village in July, 1848. Mr. Hoskins was married three times and each of the wives was a refined and intellectual woman. The six daughters and one son became honored citizens and the Hoskins' home a center of cultural interests that benefitted the social tone of our village.

During the period that the Hoskins store flourished another dry-goods store of similar type was successfully conducted on the south side of Fall Street by William B. Lathrop. Mr. Lathrop's store occupied the building now used by the Connolly store. So far as I remember that store has been used for the dry-goods business longer than any other in the village, although it has not been under the same management as long as was the Hoskins' store. Mr. Lathrop, like his somewhat older contemporary, Mr. Hoskins, was of Cayuga County birth and came here from Cayuga or Union Springs. He too was a small man with white hair and scanty white whiskers, meek and gentle in manner. He always wore a black Prince Albert suit, faultless linen, and a stove-pipe hat. His house on Cayuga Street, now owned by Dr. David Koch, was a model of quiet elegance, and there he lived all of his business life with his wife, his two children, Romayne and his quiet daughter Hattie later to marry George Utley, and also Miss Belle Palmer, Mrs. Lathrop's sister, a talented and agreeable music teacher, and long-time organist at Trinity Church.

Mr. Lathrop was the typical merchant of his period, conservative, honest, and opinionated. His goods were always of excellent quality and service always courteous. As a rule there was less activity in the Lathrop than in the Hoskins' store. The atmosphere

was more like that in a bank, impersonal, competent, but not specially cordial. After the death of Mr. Lathrop, his son continued the business for some time, aided by his uncle, Mr. Jefferson Palmer. Finally at a favorable moment Mr. Frank Cruise, a competent drygoods merchant took it over and it became the Cruise drygoods store for many years. Mr. Cruise was younger and more active than his predecessors in the business and it flourished under his management. He introduced the innovation of women clerks, ready-made costumes for women, many accessories such as costume jewelry, and fancy collars and other neckwear. In fact I think that I am correct in saying that Frank Cruise was a leader in the transition period between the formal drygoods store and the mixed type we have today.

A while before Frank Cruise acquired the Lathrop store a new firm of well-known and competent clerks formed a partnership called Monroe and Anderson. Stephen Monroe has severed his connections with the Hoskins' firm and James Anderson with the Baird store to open a store for themselves. They occupied the building now owned by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their favorable location and stock of new goods caused more or less embarrasment to the older merchants. The Hoskins' store engaged Miss Mary Henion for a clerk as her wide acquaintance in the village and sound judgment were believed to be an attraction to certain groups. Some bitterness and now and then a sarcastic remark showed that the old firms felt the pinch of the loss of the trade of valued customers. One bit of a remark still clings to my memory. It was uttered by a young clerk of those days, and shows clearly the spirit of the street. This young clerk saw a group of ladies leaving the Monroe and Anderson store and sourly remarked, "There's Stephen kissing another old woman goodbye." This may not be true, but it is an echo of the feeling of that day. The partnership did not last many years. Stephen Monroe married Nettie Magee, a descendant of one of the fine old pioneer families of this region, and after attempting life in Kansas the young couple returned to the Magee home on State Street, where Stephen Monroe opened a small drygoods store in the front parlor. The small business became less and less profitable, until finally, a widower and alone, he was a grateful pensioner of Mr. Chester Brayman, a boyhood friend who had become a prosperous New York business man.

Mr. James Anderson was a natural merchant and his wife a capable and sympathetic helpmate in business matters as well as in the home. Mr. Anderson followed the trend of the times to a marked degree and with courteous clerks and a well chosen stock carried on a successful business in this village in the store where it was established for well over fifty years. He died in the harness, as it were, an honored merchant of our village.

During the period of the prosperity of the Hoskins and Lathrop stores there was another well-remembered drygoods store owned by Henry Blodgett. That store occupied the premises now used for the Victoria Restaurant. The history of that store and its owner

is far more modern and colorful in tone than those already mentioned and as for several years Mr. Blodgett owned and occupied the house on Cayuga Street now the home of Mr. Francis J. Souhan, I saw much of the family. When my own knowledge of the Main Street of our village extended beyond Hoskins' corner, I became acquainted with the store of H. C. Blodgett, for the windows were always filled with gay prints and attractive "notions." The owner was a tall, handsome, blond man dressed as carefully as his colleagues in the drygoods business, but much more jauntily. He wore sack coats and frequently his suits were gray, dark blue, or light brown. They were always of the best materials, well cut and well fitting. He seldom sold goods over the counter, but walked through the center aisle now and then, watching the clerks, greeting a customer, and occasionally calling attention to what he called a bargain. My first memory of his clerks is of one James Sheridan, a thoroughly fine salesman of middle age, and John Casey, a handsome, black-eyed younger man, whose wife, Katie Donahue Casey was a beautiful singer.

The history of the H. C. Blodgett store and its founder is a colorful record of a picturesque character more common today than in his own generation, at least in small towns. When I was in the mud pie and pinafore stage of existence, he and his wife, Maria, and two sons, George and Tom, were living here in town, but not on Cayuga Street. As time passed the older son, George, a brunette like his mother, became a physician in New York City; and Tom, a tall, blonde youth, became a clerk in his father's store. At this period in the life of the Blodgett family, a situation arose all too common in these days, but seldom known of generally in the 1800's, especially in our village. The parents of these two grown sons had become tired of each other. Mrs. Maria Blodgett joined her son in New York and after a suitable interval, Mr. Blodgett appeared in the village with another handsome black-eyed wife, a friend of his former wife who had consented to marry him in Canada. It was not long before they had moved into what was then the Keith house now owned by the Souhan family.

Fortunately for all concerned, business of all kinds was good in the 1800's, and Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett were able to live well if not too wisely — to reverse the old adage. They kept two maids, and a coachman, had several horses and various carriages. Then followed a few glamorous years that still present pictures of a type of life not witnessed before in our neighborhood. The automobile has a speed and agile beauty of action not excelled in our day, but for tone and real elegance give me a high T cart with four horses, a handsome man holding the reins with a well dressed lady beside him and two perfectly clad children behind. Such was one of the Blodgett turnouts. Then on Sunday morning, the barouche would be driven to the curb with a properly clad coachman driving two horses and the family would drive to church. Forenoons or late afternoons Mrs. Blodgett would drive out in the phaeton. Several seasons that style continued, and we, the neighbors, sat on our piazzas and admired it all.

During the summers I have just described, the grounds of the Blodgett home were a scene of much pleasure. Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett had made the acquaintance of some New York people named Tallman who came for a fortnight or more and enjoyed the big lawn, shaded by fine old trees. In those days there was no porch across the front of the house, merely stone steps leading up to the front door. However, hammocks were hung from the trees, for there were then many more of moderate size and so placed that hammocks could be conveniently swung between them. I can see now in my mind's eye Mr. Tallman, a small, slight man suitably clad for summer in the country, in what we would now call sports clothes, lying in a hammock reading a "Seaside" novel (that means paper bound, new in those days), in the forenoon, a form of relaxation not often seen in our village in the late 1800's.

Many of the late afternoons were spent by the two couples in playing croquet on the south lawn. The game was not especially new at that time. We children had long enjoyed playing it in our unskilled way. However, to see grown people charmingly dressed, absorbed in that game, gave us entertainment. Their attitudes in order to make telling strokes, their pauses, their laughter, and sportiveness were fascinating, and made a real moving picture for their neighbors to enjoy. The highest spot during those croquet games were the evenings the players decided to continue after dark, and wired candles to the arches so that they could place their balls successfully. The scene was really charming to watch, — the broad lawn with its handsome trees, the sunset giving way to dusk, the lighting of the candles, and the four handsome, well-dressed people gracefully playing the fine old game of croquet by candle-light.

However, there are no static periods in the history of life in general, especially in business life, and even more especially in the drygoods business. Soon after the joyous summer came the relentless autumn when winter goods must be procured. The H. C. Blodgett store began having sales every Saturday when Mr. Blodgett would more than ever walk up and down the aisle of his store, shake hands with the customers, and point out special bargains to the ladies. These sales with their doubtful bargains and shallow friendship were the beginning of the end of the Blodgett extravagance and prosperity. The horses were sold, the quality of the stock became increasingly doubtful, and finally, H. C. Blodgett made an assignment.

However, Mr. Blodgett's business instinct was not deadened, for after satisfactorily settling with his creditors, he purchased a complete stock of new goods, rented a store on the north side of Fall Street near the present Alps Restaurant and started business again. Fortunately, he had taken out adequate insurance, and when a year or two later the Big Fire of 1890 swept over the west end of Fall Street, the new Blodgett store was in its path and a total loss. The insurance was paid in full and Mr. Blodgett with ready money again at his command started for the great northwest. Tacoma was, I think, the place he selected for a real estate business, and he

never returned to Seneca Falls. By that time Mr. Blodgett must have been an old man, and he lived only a few years after leaving our village. Mrs. Blodgett, his son Tom, and Bessie and Harry, children of the second marriage lived in the Cayuga Street home until about the turn of the century when Mrs. Blodgett sold the property to Mr. Micks. She and Bessie went to New York where Bessie had a teaching position in the public school system.

After Mr. Blodgett's assignment, Mr. Thomas Baird took over the store he had formerly occupied and carried on a successful business for over thirty years. Mr. Baird's ability and affable personality attracted trade and he had another asset in the popularity of one of Mr. Blodgett's former clerks, Frank Cruise. The Baird store was successful during the lifetime of its founder, but somewhat withered away after his death in the early 1900's. One of the causes for this was that Frank Cruise who had been manager during Mr. Baird's declining years had acquired sufficient cauital to buy what was left of the Lathrop store upon the death of Mr. Lathrop's son, Romayne. With new goods, a youthful point of view, and many friends, Frank Cruise became a somewhat formidable rival of the older merchants. Mr. Baird's daughter, Mrs. Nellie Baird Williams, attempted to manage her father's business for awhile, but with changing conditions, family cares, and active competition, she finally turned the business over to a manager and partner, Mr. Leroy VanEtten, and joined her mother and sister in California.

Mr. VanEtten continued the Baird policy of a good stock of house-hold materials, carpets, rugs and ready-made dresses, coats, and notions, but his failing health, and the trend of the times spelled disaster and the business faded away.

There were varying factors that caused the disintegration of the drygoods business in our village and generally throughout the land. The invention of the sewing machine was a remote cause, it seems to me. At first, no doubt, the sewing machine encouraged trade at drygoods stores, for women took real pleasure in having more changes of clothes for themselves and children, and the rapid action of the sewing machine made that possible so far as the elements of time and effort were concerned. However, it did not take long for some clever people to realize that if a woman could make her husband's shirts and her own and her children's clothes on a sewing machine in the home, why not make these articles in a factory in quantity, let people buy them, and have more leisure to enjoy life? From this simple type of so-called ready-made clothes for old and young came bedding, house dresses, and more formal dresses,etc. Large stores in cities opened dress-making departments as early as the 1800's and tailor departments for men. The business of garment making grew by leaps and bounds and gradually the village drygoods stores had no sale for yard goods.

However, an even more important factor connected with the discontinuance of drygoods stores has been the use of the automobile. In the year 1906 there were but two or three automobiles

in Seneca Falls. Mr. H. D. Knight and his brother Dr. Robert Knight each owned one and Mr. John Kaiser likewise. Indeed he not only owned a car and ran it himself (for I was given what proved to be a most dangerous painful experience in that car), but he owned and ran a factory for making cars. At that date, people in general no more visualized the rapid progress of the automobile industry and popularity than did people in general foresee the possibilities of the airplane in its early days. The automobile has been one of the greatest pleasures for families, has enabled more people to know their own country, and has given greater joy to elderly people and invalids than any other invention, it seems to me, and yet, at the same time, it has disorganized business in villages like our own to a marked degree.

Add to the points I have named two world wars, a marked change in social standards and fashions in dress, and it is easy to understand the changes on the main street of our village. It is a far cry from the imported linens, the rich silks, and real laces once found on the shelves of our village drygoods stores to Grant's basement, but it is a reality that has been witnessed by many people of my own generation.

The Drugstores of Seneca Falls

by

DR. FREDERICK W. LESTER

1946

In studying the history of the Drugstores of Seneca Falls, it is well to keep in mind that Drugstores as such were not an early form of store in the settlement days. They were existent in cities as Chemists' Shops, and in that respect followed the type of the English or Continental Drug stores, dealing only in drugs and compounding the prescriptions of physicians. In this respect, Seneca Falls was very slow in its progress. The general stores sold crude forms of drugs and patent medicines until the population of this region, and the entrance of physicians, made a Drugstore a necessity. Seneca Falls in its most populous days never has had more than three Drugstores at any one time.

Two excellent articles regarding early commercial establishments have appeared in the records of The Seneca Falls Historical Society, one in the 1903 publication, written by the late Mrs. Lillias R. Sanford, on the subject of "Early Industries", and the second in the 1907 issue of the Society's publications, on the subject, "Early Merchants of Seneca Falls," written by the late Professor W. H. Beach. Both agree on the first merchant of Seneca Falls as having been Colonel Wilhelmus Mynderse who came here as the Agent of the Bayard Company in 1795. Col. Mynderse planned and constructed a double log house in the ravine just north of our present hospital, which site is now under the waters of VanCleef Lake. He lived in the back part of the house and kept a general store in the front part for about thirty years. The second store was built by Abijah Mann in 1814, and was on the south side of the present Fall Street, at about the site of the late business places of W. B. Lathrop, Ferd Isenman, William Vanderhoof, and George Norton. It was a large frame building and was called Mechanic's Hall. It was large enough to hold several stores and afford accommodations for residents in its second story. The population of Seneca Falls or Mynderse Mills as it was then called, was about three hundred persons, and it was not until 1825 that there was any great increase in numbers. Other stores of this early period were: one kept by Henry Kellogg in 1815; Silas D. Mumford opened one in the early 1830's; Erastus Partridge started one in 1837; and Charles L. Hoskins came here from Bearytown in 1828. All of these stores were general stores and, doubtless, kept supplies of crude drugs, but still could not be called Drugstores. General Senter M. Giddings came to Seneca Falls in 1821. He built the brick block on the corner of Fall and Ovid Streets which was later acquired by Thomas B. Sharp & Sons. This store was originally a grocery and general store operated by General Giddings. His daughter, Mary, married George B. Daniels, an active business man of the time, and lived to be ninety-five years of age, residing almost her whole married life in the house on Cayuga Street which I am fortunate enough to own and live in at the present time.

At this time drugs were more or less in a crude state. The Indians had taught the early settlers the medical virtues of some of the wild herbs, gums, seeds, and berries in the treatment of disease, and liquid medicines were made usually in the form of an infusion or tea, by stewing the leaves, roots, and berries in water. It was not until December 15, 1820, that the first issue of the United States Pharmacopoeia was published. This volume, which has many subsequent editions, described and instructed Druggists and Physicians in the methods of making tinctures, fluid extracts,and other preparations from the crude native herbs. It was the result of a convention which met in Washington in 1820, attended by delegates from the County Medical Societies and State Medical Societies from all the states of the Union at that time, and was a great boon to the Drug trade and to Physicians, as it furnished a correct method for the compounding of suitable standardized medicines. Naturally such a book of reference stimulated the practice of pharmacy throughout the entire United States, and gave it a more creditable standing. As the population began to increase and physicians became more numerous, the Drugstore made its appearance. There had been no Drugstores as such up to 1826.

The first Drugstore that was established in Seneca Falls was opened by Dr. Moses C. Deming in 1826. Where he came from or what became of him afterwards nothing seems to be recorded in the annals of Seneca Falls history. The first physician to locate in Seneca Falls was Dr. Franklin Lang in the year 1807. He probably used the crudest forms of drugs and infusions. Dr. Silas Halsey had previously located in Ovid in 1792, and Dr. Alexander Coventry at about the same time at Rose Hill near Geneva, New York. Dr. Silas Keeler who located at Bridgeport in 1828, came here in 1830. He was the grandfather of the late Mrs. Jennie Keeler Lewis.

Dr. J. K. Brown who opened the next Drugstore in Seneca Falls in 1828, was much better known. His store was located on the north side of Fall Street, where the Pohle Bakery is now. His widow, Mrs. Brown and a Mrs. Squires, both aged women, lived on Prospect Street, where the Bocker home is. Dr. Brown's son, the late Walter Brown and his family lived here for many years. Dr. Brown was President of the Village of Seneca Falls, in 1847, and it is recorded that he caused to be lowered the level of Fall Street six feet during his term of office, and that the earth from this job was deposited in a ravine crossing lower Cayuga Street at the site of what is now the Masonic Temple.

In 1857, Thomas B. Sharp and Sons, James and Samuel Sharp, opened a store at the corner of Fall and Ovid Streets. This was a double store, being a drugstore on the east side and a crockery and wallpaper store on the west side. It had a high reputation for pure drugs and honest and conscientious dealing and continued down to 1907. Both Samuel and James Sharp were men of affable disposition and enjoyed the confidence of the public. Their father, Thomas, came to the United States from Birmingham, England, the place of his birth, and lived in New York City, at which place Samuel was born. Thomas Sharp's wife, whose maiden name was Addison and

whom he met on shipboard en route to New York, was a relative of the late E. W. Addison of Seneca Falls. After his arrival in Seneca Falls, Thomas Sharp started an ashery (a potash factory) and was quite successful, shipping his products by the Canal barges of the period. James, Charles, and Hannah B. Sharp were the other children of this family. Mr. Thomas Sharp died in 1881, aged about 78 years.

Dr. George W. Davis and son, George Byron Davis, began one of the earliest Drugstores in Seneca Falls. Dr. Davis who was born in Onondaga County, was an Eclectic Physician, practicing first in Dansville, New York, then in Syracuse, removing in 1853, to Seneca Falls, where he practiced as a physician and carried on a drugstore. His store was substantially in the same location as the Loblaw Grocery, and was a center from 1865 to 1868 for all manner of drugs and medicines. In 1866, the late Adelbert S. Davis came to Seneca Falls and went to work in the drugstore of Dr. G. W. Davis and Son. Adelbert S. Davis was a nephew of Dr. Davis. He was born at Amber, New York, March 22, 1847, and he afterwards became one of the most prominent citizens of Seneca Falls, in manufacturing machine tools, scrollsaws, and turning lathes. He founded the Seneca Falls Manufacturing Company in 1882. He was much interested in the Drug business and was admitted to partnership with his uncle and cousin after some years of employment in the store. In 1877, he purchased the interest of Mary E. Walters in the grocery of Cuddeback & Davis. Then he became interested in 1879 with the late George Lewis in the manufacture of scrollsaws and became manager of the Lewis Manufacturing Co., which later became the Seneca Falls Manufacturing Company. In 1878, Dr. George Davis moved to Florida where he had purchased land and an orange grove, and remained there for the rest of his life. The store, however, was continued, at first, under the name of Davis & Mundy, the partners being George B. Davis or "Byron" as he was known, and "Deacon" Mundy as he was called, from 1881 to 1886. "Deacon" Mundy was a popular man, but unfortunately, he came to an untimely end by drowning in Cayuga Lake where he had gone one bright summer Sunday morning for the purpose of swimming. He was universally liked and his death was regretted by all.

At the same stand, in 1886 and 1887, George B. Davis and Matthew Casey continued the business, under the firm name of Davis & Casey. In 1891, Mr. Davis removed to Phoenix, New York, to manage other business interests, and the firm of Casey and Seaman was established at the same locality. This firm consisted of Matthew Casey, a competent druggist, and Dr. F. G. Seaman, a physician of excellent ability, who had come to Seneca Falls to practice in 1881. About 1898, the firm dissolved on the death of Dr. Seaman, and Mr. Casey continued on alone in a new store further up the street, — a store which had been occupied by other druggists. This store was occupied first by Charles P. Gould, later by Isaac Hirschenburg until it was taken over by Mr. Casey, who continued to maintain an excellent store until his sudden death in November 1906. Maynard Harpst, who was born in Seneca Falls and

for fifty-nine years has been in the drug business, had been for many years a clerk in the Davis Drug store, and was taken in as a ner in the 1890's under the firm name of Davis & Harpst, a firm which continued successfully for many years until the death of Mr. Davis in 1912. The Harpst Pharmacy, as it is called, began in 1912, and has continued thus for the past thirty-three years.

Let us now return to some of the other early druggists. George M. Guion, son of the Rev. J. Marshall Guion, SDT, long a rector of Trinity Episcopal Church of Seneca Falls, opened a drugstore on the south side of Fall Street about 1860. The Civil War then came on in 1861, and Mr. Guion went away in command of a Company of the 148th Regiment, N. Y. V., of which he later became the Colonel. The drugstore was continued, however, during his absence, being conducted by his brother, Charles Guion of Auburn, New York. Colonel Guion resumed the management of the store upon his return in 1865 from the war, covered with honors and universally respected.

Succeeding him for a few years was Robert Bickford who bought out Mr. Guion in 1876. Then the store, about 1880, was taken over by Mr. Stewart McKechnie who came here from Canandaigua, New York, and who sold out in the course of a few years to Mr. Milton Hoag and Mr. Beauregard Carpenter. This store of Hoag & Carpenter was an up-to-date store and continued until 1890 when it was burned out in the great fire which took place in Seneca Falls in July of that year. This drugstore was never re-established. Mr. Hoag retired and occupied himself with other interests. Mr. Carpenter studied medicine and became a doctor, removing to New Hampshire for practice, where he died somewhat unexpectedly some years later.

We can all remember, I believe, the long continued drugstore of the late Mr. Perry VanKleek. This store was situated on the northeast corner of Fall and State Streets, opposite the old Hoag Hotel. Mr. VanKleek, who was a born druggist, came to Seneca Falls, from Danby, Tompkins County, and opened a store in 1868. This store continued until 1906, when the present management began under Mr. Elmer H. Hosley, and has continued until the present time. Mr. VanKleek was a friendly, quiet man who was intensely interested in his work. His store was a center for some of the elderly gentlemen of the village who loved to congregate there on Sunday mornings and visit together, especially, Jacob Shoemaker, H. C. Silsby, Frederick B. Swaby, and others. These elderly gentlemen would sit there by the hour, recounting tales of their early life, and often fell to telling stories, all at the same time. Mr. Silsby would say, " Now when I lived in Menden, there was a man there," — when in would break Mr. Swaby with, "Forty years ago, down on the Susquehanna, there was a man there who had a horse," but whatever became of the man or the horse, nobody ever found out.

The Ralph W. Crayton store, now operated by Gilbert Potter since 1940, was first established in the Gould Hotel by Mr. Crayton

in the early 30's and kept a good supply of all kinds of drugs and chemicals. It was later moved to its present location. Mr. Crayton died January 31, 1939. He was considered a very capable druggist in the compounding of prescriptions and his knowledge of drugs and medicines was wide.

Finally, I would say that we may look back with great satisfaction upon the good record of our druggists. They have, one and all, been men of good repute and high integrity, and have served the public well.

The Insurance Agents of Seneca Falls

by

JOHN S. GAY

November 8 ,1945

The first record of insurance in the Press of Seneca Falls that we have been able to find is the following from the Seneca Falls Democrat for November 28, 1839:

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

The Subscriber will take risks against loss or damage by fire as agent of the Wayne County Mutual Insurance Company, which, — by the by, has already become one of the best insurance companies in the State.

Seneca Falls, N. Y. November 21, 1839

A. N. BEARDSLEY

This ad, which is in the form we would now call suitable for a classified advertisement is immediately underneath the proclamation for the observance of Thanksgiving Day by William H. Seward, who was then Governor of the State, and is immediately followed by a notice by the same A. N. Beardsley that he had been appointed as Commissioner of Deeds.

Apparently, Mr. Beardsley was unable to hold the agency, for we find an aggressive young man in the person of Josiah T. Miller, still remembered by some of our older residents as Judge Miller, who in the issue of the Seneca Falls Democrat for August 11th, 1842, announces as follows:

Josiah T. Miller, Justice of the Peace, Agent for the Wayne County Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Office with S. S. Viele, Esq., in the Mynderse Building, immediately over the store of Mr. Abel Downs, where he may always be found.

Business entrusted to him will be punctually attended to.

Deeds and other instruments in writing prepared and the proof taken thereof.

Applications for insurance by the above company received and surveys of property, etc., made.

Seneca Falls Feb. 17, 1842.

"At the late term of the Court of Common Pleas of this County, Mr. Miller was admitted to practice as an attorney and counsellor thereof."

The writer recalls that his father, the late Albert S. Gay, related to him that the Wayne County Mutual was an early insurance company and the first that his father, the late John S. Gay, who was a merchant for many years in this village, ever carried insurance with. From the same source the writer learned that on

a certain occasion a warehouse in the rear of Grandfather Gay's store caught fire. It was filled with cloverseed in which the Gays dealt largely at that time. My father, in company with other young huskies, shouldered the bags of cloverseed and carried them out of danger. No easy task considering the weight of each bag. In the morning my father informed the agent of the company in which he thought the insurance was carried, who was none other than the late Henry Henion, father of the Misses Anna, Mary, and Evelyn Henion, of respected memory, that he had saved the company a considerable sum of money by salvaging the cloverseed. "Not at all", said Mr. Henion, (who was known as "Squire") "Your father allowed those policies to expire a few days ago."

As near as can be ascertained, Judge Miller, who has been already mentioned, was the first regularly established insurance agent within the Village, who maintained an office and wrote policies in different companies. This was carried on in connection with his extensive law practice and he was for a number of years County Judge and Surrogate of the County. The business became so extensive that he was obliged to hire assistants. One of these was Samuel L. Jacoby, who not long before had been honorably discharged from the Army of the Potomac and had served with credit in the Civil War. Mr. Jacoby applied himself diligently to the business and solicited risks not only in the village but throughout the surrounding territory. An interesting incident is related in regard to his solicitations. During his rounds, he received an order for insurance on a feather renovator, a particular hazardous risk, situated in the neighboring hamlet of Fayette or Bearytown. For some unexplained reason, Mr. Jacoby mislaid the memorandum and the policy was not issued. Before long the feather renovator was destroyed by fire and the owner upon applying for his policy was informed that it had not been issued. He refused to take this for an answer, and retained Jasper N. Hammond, then a rising young lawyer, to protect his interests. Inquiry was made as to the company in which the policy, which had not been written, was intended to be issued and a certain company, the name of which was escaped the memory of the writer, was named. The premium money was legally tendered to the Miller Agency and refused. Suit was brought and the case was carried through all the necessary courts and judgment finally obtained in favor of the claimant, this being one of a number of cases which finally established the principle of the common law that an oral agreement to insure is valid and binding.

An interesting side-light on the personnel of the business up to the year 1894 is the following list of Agents of the AEtna Insurance Company of Hartford covering the years in question: May 1, 1857, Josiah T. Miller; August 1, 1880, William V. Van Rensselaer; March 1, 1881, Jacoby and Van Rensselaer; February 1, 1882, Samuel L. Jacoby; February 1, 1883, Chatham Brothers; February 1, 1885, Warren J. Chatham; February 1, 1886, Samuel L. Jacoby, January 1, 1894, Maynard S. Jacoby; January 8, 1894, Albert S. Gay; As a result of all these changes noted, the Miller Agency

finally passed into the control of Mr. Samuel Jacoby who increased the business and was the leading insurance agent for a number of years.

Another prominent figure in the insurance business of Seneca Falls in the 80's was William Arthur Swaby Latham, who can still be remembered by many of our people as a colorful and voluble character, whose voice could be heard along Fall Street at almost any hour of the day and sometimes of the night. He had been admitted to practice law, but preferred the insurance business and built up a considerable business. His brother-in-law, the late William Hills of Auburn, was taken into partnership and in due time purchased Mr. Latham's interest in the business.

Another leading agent was the late A. Seymour Pollard, who for many years maintained an office in the Daniels Building and who built up a substantial volume of insurance business representing the Hartford, Continental and other prominent companies.

With the rapid growth of industries and business in Seneca Falls, the usual amount of flimsy construction entered into the factories and business houses and a corresponding number of fires ensued. Among those recorded are the destruction of Silsby's Island Works, the Old Stone Shop of Goulds Manufacturing Company, as well as other factory fires of minor importance. The situation on the south side of Fall Street with the rear of buildings practically inaccessible also lent itself to large fire losses and there occurred several of them, which swept various sections of the south side of Fall Street. On one of these occasions, the writer's father, who was a faithful member of Engine Company No. 2, had to work all night upon the brakes as they were called, this being the method of pumping by the hand engines that were then used. Not that any one individual would work continuously on these, but there would be crews that would spell each other at proper intervals, and it was hard exhausting work. The culmination of these fires in the business district of Seneca Falls was the Great Fire of 1890, which destroyed both sides of Fall Street from a point west of the present Shannon Clothing Store on the north side of Fall Street and the Arcade Building on the south side of Fall Street including the Daniels Opera House, one of the best playhouses in the section at that time where many of the leading actors and actresses gave performances, and the Hoag Hotel and the Phoenix Block, which stood on the site of the present Clary Building. In the basement of this building was a powerful fire pump which could have been used to great advantage to stem the flames. It was connected to a water wheel by gears and some hot-headed person attempted to throw the pump into gear with the water wheel running, which resulted in stripping the gears and crippling the entire appartus.

The enormous losses caused by this fire amounting to at least $500,000 were met in a most satisfactory manner by the Jacoby, Latham, and Pollard Agencies, and other smaller agents. The result was that the business section of the town rose like the bird Phoenix from its ashes and as usual people were more ready to

listen to the argument of the insurance agent and bought protection more freely.

Before passing from this phase of the insurance business in the village, it should be noted that some of the early agents did not appreciate their responsibilities and used to gamble with the premium funds entrusted to their care, i.e., they would make a note of the risk, but did not issue any policy. In case of fire, they made them good from their own pockets. This should not be fastened upon any of the individuals, who have been mentioned, but has been related to the writer as a practice that obtained some favor in the early days. While this savors of the operations carried on at Lloyd's Insurance Exchange in London, it is a practice that is absolutely forbidden now by the Insurance Laws of every State in the Union.

Following the fire of 1890, certain changes began to take place in the insurance business. In March 1891, a new figure entered the agency business in the person of Albert S. Gay. He had been a merchant for a number of years and at the time of the fire was managing a clothing store for a Utica firm. They started up business again in a small way, but finally withdrew and Mr. Gay started his business without purchasing any other agency and without a risk on his books. By his diligent efforts, his business gradually grew and in two or three years attracted the attention of companies who were in other agencies. At the same time Mr. Samuel Jacoby's health failed and his son became associated with Mr. N. H. Becker in the Exchange National Bank and Mr. Gay finally acquired the companies and business of the Jacoby Agency in considerable part and thus his agency became firmly established.

At about the same time the Latham and Hills Agency, which had come into the entire ownership of William Hills, was purchased by the late James H. MacDonald, who had had an honorable career as an officer in the Civil War and had been associated with Mr. Harrison Chamberlain in his business enterprises for a number of years. The large acquaintance and business connection of Mr. Gay and Col. MacDonald enabled them to operate successfully, which they did for a number of years.

Meantime Mr. Pollard continued his business and other agents appeared on the scene in the person of the late Martin O'Neill and Fred G. Wilcoxen.

It is worthy of note that the early business, which had been placed largely in local Mutual Companies like the Wayne County Mutual and other local mutuals was now in what was known as the old line stock companies, which had been time-tried and fire-tested by the New York, Chicago, and Boston fires of the early days. These stock companies, were members of what was known as "The Board" and maintained uniform rates, but about the year 1895 there appeared a new agent on the scene in the person of Mrs. Sarah Beck. She formed a connection with an Auburn Agency, which represented so-called non-board companies and took risks particularly within the village at less than board rates. She contin-

ued in this business until the year 1924, when the non-board companies joined the board and she began to place her business with the Gay Agency. On account of her position as the most prominent real estate agent in the Village and her integrity and diligence, she built up some considerable business and it was so to speak a "thorn in the flesh" of the established board agencies.

Another attorney who had built up a sizeable business within the Village was the late E. Stanley Sackett. However, his business soon passed into the hands of Thomas McGovern, whose industry and integrity enabled him to build up a considerable business. He was the first general insurance agent to devote much time to the life insurance business. In this branch as agent for the Northwestern Mutual of Milwaukee he built up a large business. He was also somewhat interested in the sale of real estate. At his untimely death in about the year 1912 his agency passed into the hands of William H. Hurley and in about the year 1920 was purchased by John S. Gay.

In the late nineties difficulties arose in connection with the writing of farm fire insurance. There was a sharp increase in the loss ratio and many companies, including the AEtna, refused to write any more farms. This caused the agents untold difficulties. It also brought into the field the Tompkins County Cooperative Insurance Company of Ithaca and its agent, a certain Mr. Johnson. He created no little disturbance and secured a considerable volume of business particularly among the farms and other risks outside of fire protection. After one or two years operation Mr. Johnson removed to Wayne County. He was succeeded by the late W. Frank Hoster and later by Augustus M. Nelson. This business is now incorporated in that of William D. Royce who has added other cooperative companies and conducts a considerable and well-established business.

Another figure that entered the business in about the year 1908 was that of the late Romeyn P. Lathrop, who was so many years Town Clerk. In connection with the duties of that office he acquired the agency of one or two companies and wrote a moderate amount of business.

In the year 1902, Mr. Albert Gay began to fail in health and in March of that year his son, John S. Gay, entered the business and has remained in it ever since.

For some years past he has been ably assisted by Miss Helen K. Reagan, who is a duly licensed agent and writes insurance on her own account. He is also assisted at this time by Mrs. Bernice K. Burtless and Mrs. Elizabeth K. Bleck.

In 1905 Col. MacDonald's health failed and his business was taken over by his sons, who by their ability and integrity had built up one of the leading law practices in the Village. They operated this agency for a number of years, and finally when they lost their able assistant, Miss Emma Maier, who went to Albany to take the position as Secretary to Senator Hewitt, they sold the business to

Earl D. Clark. Mr. Clark in the meantime purchased the A. S. Pollard Agency and consolidated the two, running the same for a number of years and selling to George H. Leet, who is at present conducting the business in the Reveille Building. He is ably assisted at this time by Mrs. Anna May Parker.

A necessary feature of the insurance business of the Village of Seneca Falls has been the handling of insurance upon factories. These were largely insured in the beginning with local agents. With the introduction of the automatic sprinkler and the appreciation of its benefits shown by the New England Mutual Insurance Companies, the better part of this business was for some time largely lost to the local agencies of the Village. The stock companies did not appreciate the automatic sprinkler or its effect upon the fire loss and rates of insurance.

About the year 1910, however, this mistake began to be corrected. The companies began to appreciate the automatic sprinkler and its benefits and with the formation of the Factory Insurance Association, an organization of stock companies devoted to the handling of large sprinklered risks, the greater portion of this business has been restored to the local channels. The efficiency of the automatic sprinkler has reduced the cost of such protection to almost nominal figures.

The opening of the Twentieth Century saw a new branch of the insurance business, which had been started previously, growing in size and influence so that it has almost overshadowed the business of insurance against fire. I refer to the casualty business including insurance against employer's liability, workmen's compensation, public liability, personal accident, burglary, water damage, plate glass breakage, etc. When the writer came into his father's office in 1902, there were only three or four of these policies on the books but about the year 1905, manufacturers became interested in protecting their liability. Steam boiler insurance became a popular line. Personal accident insurance was largely written and with the advent of the automobile, the liability for automobile operation immediately became a prominent factor. This became particularly true in the years of prosperity following World War I. At this time there came a new figure into the business in the person of Michael J. O'Brien, who had been a popular restaurateur for some years. When he could no longer operate legally he closed his restaurant and entered the insurance business and his popularity and integrity enabled him almost immediately to build up a considerable volume. His business has been largely confined to the casualty lines and he is still engaged in successful operation in the Reveille Building in the same office with George H. Leet. It can be safely said that the casualty business now amounts, in most agencies, very close to one-half of the total volume of premiums. This is particularly true with the considerable decrease in fire insurance rates, which has been manifested in recent years. The increasing volume of premiums ensuing from the casualty business has attracted others into the business in recent years. Among these may be mentioned

Thomas J. Farron, who has now been succeeded by Andrew L. Sipos, William H. Usher, Homer Kuney, Henry W. Koch, Ellis O. Kreutter and Clarence V. Black.

This chronicle makes no attempt to detail the various life insurance agents, who from time immemorial had conducted business within the village. This, which is a separate and distinct branch of the business, could well be made into another history, which would preserve the memory of David H. Andrews, Henry Lienhart, Percy E. Tenant, and other well known figures.

It is worthy of note also that since the year 1930 the insurance department has raised the business to the dignity of a profession and requires the passing of a written examination before one can be licensed as an insurance agent, thus recognizing the obligation of the agent to protect the property of the client with the same fidelity that the lawyer protects his property and the physician his health and life. New phases of the business will arise as the problems and benefits of the atomic age will change the lives, habits and customs of the people. Insurance it seems likely will be necessary as it has been in the past, as a basis for the protection of the property and credit of the community and it will be the endeavor of those who are engaged in this profession to serve their clients faithfully in the future as in the past.

Seneca Falls Dentists Past and Present

by

DR. ROBERT J. HOWLAND

April, 1946

Before taking up the subject of Seneca Falls Dentists, I thought it might be of interest to give a very brief summary of dental history in general.

Dentistry as a profession is comparatively new, being only a little over 100 years old. But various phases of it have been practiced since ancient times. The Babylonians, Egyptians, Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans all have left historical records showing that dental disorders and treatments existed in very early times. Egyptian mummies have been found with crude dental bridges and other evidences of restorative dentistry. In the writings of Hypocrates and Pliny frequent allusion is made to drugs which were especially advocated for diseases of the teeth and mouth. Pliny suggests among other things that "if one wishes to be free from toothache, one should eat a whole mouse twice a month."

In the Middle Ages, travelling vagabonds who practiced surgery, barbering, and tooth pulling, etc. were very common. A sign was discovered in London, painted about 1740, which said, "Shaving, bleeding and teeth drawn with a touch."

The patron Saint of dentistry, St. Appollonia, was canonized in Rome about 300 A.D. Being a Christian, St. Appollonia was tortured by her persecutors by having her teeth, one by one extracted. She finally suffered death by fire. Her name is frequently mentioned in prayer books of the Middle Ages, prayers to her being especially intended for relief of toothache.

Coming down to more recent times, the United States early took the lead in the field of Dentistry. Prior to 1840, Dental surgery was practiced as a branch of medicine. The first dental society and dental journal both made their appearance in this country about 1840. The first school of dentistry, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, received its charter in 1839.

This country has always maintained the lead in Dentistry. Our dental schools are by far the finest in the world, and in general, our standards in dentistry are equalled no where else.

Dentists did not have to be licensed in the early 1800's, so there were all kinds, but jewelers, mechanics, goldsmiths, etc. did much fine mechanical dentistry for those days. Paul Revere who practiced many trades practiced dentistry among others.

It is common knowledge that George Washington lost his teeth while quite young, but the best dentures he could obtain were extremely poor compared with present day standards. Fillings of gold have been used from early times. Silver amalgam fillings were first used in this country in 1833.

To the dental profession of the United States belongs the honor of having introduced into surgery the first practical method of obtaining complete anesthesia, one of the greatest boons ever bestowed on mankind for the relief of suffering. With the introduction of Nitrous Oxide as a general anesthetic in 1844 by Horace Wells, the stimulation for further research was initiated and the future development of anesthesia was well under way. Cocain was discovered in 1884; novocain in 1905.

The Roentgen Ray was first used in 1895 in dentistry by Dr. Kells. These latter two discoveries, the x-ray and novocain, were of the greatest aid to good dentistry. Novocain could be used by the average practicioner with no ill effects, and he could thus achieve painless dentistry. The proper use of the x-ray enabled the dentist to avoid much guess work, prevent many dental troubles, and do a much higher type of dentistry than he could otherwise.

During my lifetime, dentistry has progressed at a breathtaking rate. The emphasis has changed from restorative dentistry to preventive dentistry. Instead of replacing teeth with bridges and dentures, we plan to preserve teeth by means of propr diet, proper home care, and early correction of dental defects by the dentist. The fear and dread so many people used to have of going to the dentist is fast disappearing. Not only is early and periodic dental care more pleasant, but new techniques and anesthetics are eliminating any need of pain. New materials such as certain plastics used for crowns, bridges, and dentures, are superior in many respects to some of the older materials. Research in dentistry is developing not only better materials, but better techniques for doing many things, the construction of full dentures for instance. Many excellent dentures were constructed in days past, but on the average those of today are far superior in comfort, mechanical ease of operation, and in appearance. They can now rarely be told from the real thing. By co-operating with the physician, dentists are aiding in maintaining and restoring health.

It has proved somewhat difficult for me to obtain very much information regarding dentists who practiced here in Seneca Falls. I am indebted to Miss Caroline Lester and to Dr. Lester who have contributed some very helpful material.

I searched the files of Dental Registration at the County Clerk's office where I found that the first dental registrations were for the year 1879, and there were a great number in that year, not only in the larger communities of the county, but in all the smaller hamlets and crossroads as well. The form of this registration ran as follows; "In pursuance of Section 30, Chapter 540 of Laws of the State of New York entitled 'An Act to Regulate the Practice of Dentistry in the State of York, June 30, 1879,' I _____ of the town of _____, County of Seneca, do hereby certify that I am practicing dentistry in said town. That my name is as above stated, that I was so practicing on the 30th of June, and that my post office is _____." There were no State Board

Examinations to pass. A dentist could practice if he had graduated from an accredited school, or if he was practicing dentistry in any form at that time he could continue to do so.

I know that my great grand-father who was a farmer had a set of turn-keys which he constructed, and which he used to pull the teeth of neighbors who came to him with the toothache. I suppose many like him continued to pull and do some minor form of dentistry after this act was passed.

These earlier dentists usually had a year in dental school, but were not always high school graduates.

It was not until 1916 that dentists were required to have two years in dental school and be a high school graduate. The requirements have been changed since then so that now six years of college work is required. I happened to be a member of the first class of which six years was required.

Now, in order to procure a license to practice in this state, a dentist must pass the State Board examinations which are considered rather strict. These examinations consist of two parts; the written examination which covers the theory and book knowledge which has been studied in an approved dental school; and the clinical and technical which tests the dentist's ability to perform various types of dental procedures on patients and also to do various laboratory procedures.

In listing the names of the Seneca Falls dentists, I regret that I have so little information about some of them. Perhaps some of those present can give us additional information or anecdotes which some of these names call to mind.

The first dentist whose name was given in the County Clerk's register was Dr. Henry C. Knickerbocker, registered June, 1879. In August of that same year, there was registered one, Dr. Thomas Holbrook. I have been told that he came here with his family from Cortland County. One of his daughters married Mr. Jasper Hammond, and became the mother of Frank Hammond.

There was also registered in that same year 1879, a Dr. M. E. Gould from Farmer Village (Interlaken). Miss Lester has an account of Dr. Moses C. Gould whom I imagine is the same person. I quote from her; "Dr. Moses C. Gould, born in 1849 at Hopkinton, Merrimac County, New Hampshire. Parents, Charles and Ruth Gould, both natives of New Hampshire, where much of his early life was spent. He was in active practice in Seneca Falls 14 years, and occupied offices at 62 Fall St., which were in a building now torn down, known as the Swaby building on the north side of the Street. He also owned the residence at 102 State, now owned by William G. Allen, where he and his wife, Charlotte P. and his family resided. His two sons, Warren and Charles Gould grew up in Seneca Falls, Charles entering the drug business. One daughter, Ethel, was also included in the family. Dr. Gould was a forceful, skilled Dentist, also, quite a politician, for he was elected to the Assembly to represent the County in the year 1899. His brother,

Dr. Louis A. Gould, was a physician and practiced for many years at Interlaken, N. Y. where he was succeeded by his son, Dr. L. Arthur Gould who is now in active practice there. Dr. Moses C. Gould was a tall, vigorous man with a heavy mustache and countenance expressive of force and vigor. No one could question his ability as a Dentist and his office was fitted with all the usual equipment for his professional work. His period of work extended from about 1879 to 1894. He passed away after a short illness in Seneca Falls."

Another of the early dentists who are identified with Seneca Falls, is Dr. James Mayhew, and again I am indebted to Miss Lester for the following account:

"There are probably a few in Seneca Falls who remember Dr. James Mayhew, a dentist who practiced here before and during the 1870's. My childhood memory is vivid but brief, for he extracted my first forceps-drawn tooth. First of all let me try to describe his office. At the time I speak of in the mid 1870's the northeast corner of Fall and State St. was different from that of today. The property was then as now owned by the Daniels family, but the block was differently divided. The lower west side was devoted to the Seneca Falls Savings Bank and of somewhat more spacious proportions than the present Hosley Drug store. East of the bank came the VanKleek Drug store, the type one no longer sees. The precise and able owner, Mr. Perry VanKleek, always most carefully dressed and of blandly severe manner, sold nothing but drugs, possibly a few fine perfumes, and filled out prescriptions for the village physicians. To the east of the drug store a broad stairway ascended to an upper hall. At the end of the stairs was the popular Daniels Hall. Across the hall from the entrance to Daniels Hall was the Office of the Empire Gas and Electric Company presided over by jolly Mr. William Parish. In front of that office with windows facing Fall street was my father's office, and across the hall from that was Dr. Mayhew's office. Well do I recall being led across the broad hall by my father to have a tooth pulled. There stood Dr. James Mayhew, tall and thin with gray hair and beard, quiet in manner and looking like a minister with his Prince Albert coat and gray trousers. I can see still, in my mind's eye, the dismal office with worn carpet, a horsehair covered sofa and the two old chairs. There was no effort made to amuse waiting patients, no magazines or newspapers, merely a place to sit and look out of the windows. I was lifted into a large chair in an alcove at the extreme east side of the office. Dr. Mayhew told me to open my mouth and point to the tooth that ached. He then attached his forceps to it and gave the necessary pull that relieved my pain. Dr. Mayhew was considered an excellent dentist in his day. He made satisfactory plates for my parents, and many other patrons, and was a gentlemanly, conscientious practicioner who served the public well according to the standards of the day and locality."

A Dr. Denton Peterson was registered in 1881, but about him I have no information at all.

Seneca Falls was served for a brief period by one of its own young men, for in March 1889, there was registered Dr. Nathan Garling, who grew to manhood here, I understand. He practiced here for only a short time, moving to Ithaca where he continued in his profession.

Dr. William Wellington Belcher was registered at the County Clerk's office, December 30, 1892, at the age of 26, address 70 Fall St. He was the brother of Dr. Harry Belcher whom most of you knew. Although I knew Harry Belcher well, he never had much to say about his brother except that he did practice with him for a while. Dr. William Belcher moved from Seneca Falls to Rochester while still quite young. In the Centennial History of Dentistry in Rochester by Harvey J. Burkhart, Dr. Belcher is mentioned among those who were prominent in various progressive enterprises for the advancement of dentistry. He was much interested in oral hygiene and children's dentistry. Dr. Belcher, he says, gave much of his time to matters connected with the organization and establishment of the first dental clinics in Rochester. During his latter years, he was the efficient editor of ORAL HYGIENE, one of the leading dental journals, and particularly interested in children's dentistry and the promotion of oral health activities. He died in Rochester in 1919, leaving a widow and one son, Harold, who is now on the staff of the Los Angeles Times. His widow, Mrs. Alice E. Belcher, died last March.

About the same time that Dr. Belcher came to Seneca Falls, there came also another young man who was to spend the rest of his life here administering to the dental needs of the community. I refer to Dr. John Herbert Sahler, who came here as a young man from Chester County, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1860. He boarded at the Armstrong Boarding house, I am told by Dr. Lester. This boarding house was in the old Miller homestead opposite to the present home of Maynard Harpst. Dr. Sahler married Minerva Hopper, and two sons and one daughter were born to them. The eldest, Herbert, is now living in Fairport, New York. The daughter, Anna, married Mr. Grant Hitchens of Syracuse, New York, and the youngest of the family, Milo H. is now practicing dentistry in our village. Dr. J. H. Sahler was a graduate of the Pennslyvania College of Dental Surgery, and was a conscientious and faithful dentist. I believe probably he holds the record for number of years in practice, for he carried on until age and infirmity compelled him to retire. I imagine that it was a particular joy to him that his youngest son chose to follow in his profession and for a number of years they shared offices over the Reveille. Previous to that time, Dr. Sahler had offices on the south side of Fall street. I believe at one time he was located in the building now owned by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and later he moved across the street above the Story and Strong Hardware where he spent most of his most active years. The family resided at 105 State St., where Dr. Sahler died in December, 1945, after a long and successful career.

The year 1895 was a banner year for registrations. In March Dr. Thomas Stuart about whom I have no information registered.

In May, Dr. Maynard Williams registered. I have been told that he had an office in the Clary Building. His sister married Dr. John Crosby. The Williams family made their home on State Street just below the railroad tracks on the west side. In July of 1895, Dr. William Dobson registered. He was a brother of the late George Dobson, and practiced here a comparatively short time, afterwards moving to California where he died.

Another dentist about whom I have been unable to find information is Dr. Edward J. Pierce who registered in 1889.

Dr. Thomas K. Means registered in August 1891, age 24, address 70 Fall St. He was a well liked and capable Dentist whom it was my privilege to know after he moved to Geneva. He carried on a very successful practice there for many years. He usually had a younger dentist associated with him, as well as a Hygienist and an assistant. His pleasant personality and skill in all branches of dentistry made him one of the most popular of Geneva dentists. After a long illness he died in 1938, I believe.

The following I have taken from Grips Historical Souvenir of Seneca Falls. Dr. H. S. Waldorf is a native of Wolcott, N. Y. where he received his early education, graduating from Leavenworth Institute of that place. After one year's experience teaching school, his study was resumed at Cazenovia Seminary. Having completed his course there, he resumed teaching for a few years. He then took a course in dentistry at the University of Buffalo, after the completion of which he was taken in partnership with an established practicioner in his native town. In the early part of 1901 he located in Seneca Falls, fitting up dental "parlors", as they used to call them, in the Failing block over Waller's hardware store. He was an active member of the community, being identified with the Methodist Church, the Masons, and the Knights of Pythias. He returned to Wolcott, where he is now living.

When Dr. Waldorf left Seneca Falls, he sold his practice to a young Dentist who had recently graduated from the University of Buffalo, Dr. Ernest E. Horton. Dr. Horton was a native of Wolcott, as was Dr. Waldorf. Shortly after Dr. Horton came here, he fell ill, and was nursed back to health by a Miss Ethel Jeffrey whom he afterwards married. They had three children; one daughter, Lucile, who is now married and living in Ogdensburgh, N. Y.; and two sons, David, and Robert, both of whom are married. Dr. Horton carried on a successful and prosperous practice for 28 years. Unfortunately, he became mentally ill, and died in 1931. He and his family resided on State St., first at 126 State St., and for the greater part of his life at 120 State St. In 1935, his widow sold their home to my wife and myself.

Dr. Thomas J. Mangan registered in January 1906, at the age of 37. For many years, Dr. Mangan practiced dentistry at an office in his home at 155 Fall St. He was a fine man beloved by many. His health was poor for years and I believe he died in 1942. Dr. Mangan is one of several here mentioned whose record can undoubtedly be amplified by some here present.

Of all the Dentists who have practiced here in Seneca Falls, I knew best Dr. Harry Belcher, who came back to Seneca Falls in 1913, when he was 43 years old. As I stated previously he did practice here with his brother Dr. William Belcher for a few years. He was a graduate of the Louisville College of Dentistry. At the age of 26 he went to the University of Buffalo where he became an instructor and served faithfully for many years. Numerous dentists from various cities have spoken to me of their high regard for him and what a help he was to them in their student days at Buffalo. After leaving the teaching post he practiced privately in Buffalo for a few years, and then came here where he was to spend the rest of his life. He was always active in civic affairs, and belonged to various fraternal organizations. During the First World War he was active in Liberty Bond Drives. He and the late Daniel Moran headed a group who went about the County selling bonds. Dan would talk and Harry would sing. Dr. Belcher was married to Miss Katherine Maier of Seneca Falls, and they had one child, a daughter who died in infancy. They made their home at 217 W. Fall St. His office was located in the Clary Building. In 1927, his eyesight began to fail, and to his great sorrow he was forced to retire from practice in 1928. While I was a Senior student at the University of Pennsylvania, I heard of his sad plight, and after some correspondence and several telephone calls, I made the trip here from Philadelphia in the spring of 1929. I was favorably impressed by him and his office, and made the decision which I have never regreted, to take over his office and practice. This I did in the fall of 1929. Dr. Belcher was a great help to me as I started the practice of dentistry, always ready to help and advise. Although his dimming eyesight failed completely in 1930, his courage and patience never failed and his humor and cheerfulness were an inspiration to those who knew him. In 1941 his faithful wife died, which was a great blow to him. Although he courageously tried to keep up his spirits, his health continued to weaken and he passed away in February 1945. If I devote more time to this Dentist who tried always to bring happiness to others, it is not because I think less of the others, but because I happened to know Dr. Belcher so well, and I wish to pay him tribute.

I will speak but briefly of contemporary dentists. Dr. Claude Christopher, son of Columbus Christopher, was a Seneca Falls boy who eventually spent many years in practice here. He first practiced in New York City, and was a veteran of the First World War, following which he came back here. His office was located over the Williams Jewelry store. His especial interest was the welfare of World War I veterans, and he worked tirelessly for their benefit. He was married and had two sons. His wife died some years ago. Dr. Christopher retired a few years ago, and lives now at his home in East Varick.

Of all the dentists now engaged in active practice, Dr. Willard Hoster has been carrying on the longest. He registered in November 1898 at the age of 25. He attended the Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery, and after graduating, began the practice of dentis-

try here. At one time he had his office on the south side of Fall St., in the business section, but for many years he has maintained his offices at his home on East Bayard St. In failing health now, he has been compelled to curtail his activities, but he still devotes some time to his practice.

Seneca Falls has never failed to contribute her share of physicians and dentists to the nation's welfare in time of war. During World War II, she upheld her reputation, for two of our young Dentists answered their country's call. Dr. Caesar Daugenti who registered here in 1940, became a Captain in the U. S. Army Dental Corps; and Dr. Angelo Romeo, who registered in 1941, became a Major in the same corps. It is a great pleasure to be able to say that both of these young men have returned from the service and within the past two months have resumed their practices. Both of these dentists are graduates of the University of Buffalo. Dr. Daugenti has offices in the ever popular spot over the Story and Strong Hardware store. He married a Seneca Falls girl, a Miss Turri, and he now resides with his family on South Spring Street in this village. Dr. Romeo is a native Seneca Falls boy, who grew to manhood here, attending our own good village schools where he was an outstanding and very popular young man. After attending Colgate, he took his Dental work at the University of Buffalo, and then opened offices at 57 State Street. He, too, married a Seneca Falls girl, Miss Ann Colella. They now reside in rooms at the rear of his offices on State Street.

Also serving in the Army Dental Corps was another young Dentist who had practiced in Seneca Falls for a few years. I refer to Dr. Jospeh Adams, who occupied offices at 48 Fall Street immediately preceding Dr. Daugenti. Dr. Adams came here in 1937 from Ohio where he was educated. About 1940 he went to Rochester where he was located only briefly before going into the service. The last that I heard from him he was a Captain and was stationed in Panama. I should imagine that he has been discharged by this time.

That brings us down to the three remaining Dentists now in active practice here. Dr. F. E. Dowd registered in January 1925, coming here from The Willard State Hospital where he had been on the Staff since his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania. His office is located in the Clary Building.

Dr. Milo Sahler, to whom I have already referred commenced the practice of Dentistry in 1938. Upon his graduation from Mynderse Academy, he attended Mechanics Institute in Rochester, N. Y. He then decided to take up the Dental profession, and went to the University of Buffalo. After his graduation from that institution, he was associated with his father and together they had offices over the Seneca Falls Reveille, where he is now carrying on alone since the retirement and death of his father. He lives with his Mother at the family home in State Street.

To make the record complete, I feel I should mention that we are about to welcome a new Dentist to our village. About the 1st

of June, Dr. William Malone expects to open offices in the Clary Building in the rooms which I occupied until my recent move to State Street. Dr. Malone is now serving as Captain in the Army Dental Corps, stationed at Valley Forge. He is not a stranger to Seneca Falls, where he has many relatives, and where for a few years he attended school, graduating from Mynderse Academy.

I regret that time and circumstances did not permit my obtaining more of the details concerning local dentists past and present, and I shall be grateful for any additional information that any of you who are present may be able to give.

The Schools of Seneca Falls

by

MR. F. J. MEDDEN

February 13, 1947

In order to trace the evolution of our local school system, mention should be made of a few facts concerning the part the State of New York has taken in educational matters. In 1784, the Legislature created a Board of Regents to take charge of King's College, now Columbia University. King's College had been organized in 1754. At that time it is estimated that there were approximately fifteen college graduates in the colony. As many of these young men, and especially those from Yale College were returning to New York with advanced political ideas, care had been taken that in King's College the teachers should favor the English and the King, thus keeping the people in charge of the aristocracy. Among the early graduates were such boys as Gouverneur Morris and Alexander Hamilton. Later the jurisdiction of the Regents was extended to Academies of the State. The common schools were not considered at all.

The common schools really had their beginning in 1795, when the Legislature enacted a law giving $50,000 yearly for five years, to common county schools provided the county would raise a like amount by taxation. In 1805, at the recommendation of Governor Lewis, the proceeds of 500,000 acres of the state lands were set aside, the income of which was forever to be used for the schools of the state. This was the beginning of the permanent school fund. In 1812, plans were made for the distribution of the income of this fund, which is known as the Gospel and School Fund.

It is recorded that in 1813, a sum of money amounting to $80.29 was apportioned to the Town of Junius. In order to accept this sum the town was obligated to raise a like amount. A special Town meeting was held to determine what to do with the money and the following resolutions were adopted. "First, that the Town do not accept the money allowed by the State for the support of common schools being $80.20. Second, that the Town is willing to receive its proportion of the School Fund, to apply it for the education of poor children."

Last Sunday was the 145th anniversary of the first school in Seneca Falls, for it was on February 9, 1802, that Alexander Wilson, the pioneer school teacher, opened school in a log building situated upon or near the site of Trinity Episcopal Church. The building had been erected by a "bee" of the citizens on June 15, 1801, and was placed at the disposal of Mr. Wilson, who collected his pay from his patrons. The pay was probably twelve shillings for a term of thirteen weeks.

In 1807, a block house which stood on the lot directly west of our hospital and used by Colonel Wilhelmus Mynderse as a store was torn down and rebuilt on the site of the house now owned by

Mr. Thomas Masten, just south of the Presbyterian Church. This building did duty for both school and meeting house for ten years. These buildings were crude affairs, made of hewn logs without much attention being paid to lighting, ventilation, and heating.

The interior of one of the early schools of Waterloo, taught by Isaac Gorham, is aptly described by Dr. Gridley of Waterloo, and probably applies to all schools of an early date.

"The seats in use were slabs with legs in number, four.
And so these quadrupeds maintained some ten or more.
The desks were slabs at angle, cut and carved and maimed,
And not by birch or ferule could Jack knives be restrained.
The smaller urchins sat upon the humble seat,
With naught to rest the back, too high to rest the feet,
Turning, twisting, pinching, busy in keeping still,
Grinding! Grinding!! Grinding!!! in Isaac Gorham's mill!"

Prior to 1815, and after Mr. Wilson, came Mr. St. John, Jonathan Metcalf, Benjamin and Anson Jones, and Lot Hamilton. Anson Jones arrived at the Falls on a Saturday in 1812-13 and gave notice that he would open a school on the following Monday. He had been a lawyer in Vermont. After teaching a few terms he disappeared. In 1840 it was ascertained that he was Governor of Texas. It is said that Jonathan Metcalf taught school in order to obtain exemption from the draft during the War of 1812 that he might pay court to Betsy Miller, whom he afterwards married.

In 1817, a frame building was erected on North Park Street facing the Park. Lot Hamilton evidently moved with the location for he was the first teacher in this new building. Later this building was removed and a four room brick building was built on the same site.

The Town of Seneca Falls became a separate political unit in 1829. It was divided into eight common school districts, each a law unto itself, as far as conducting its own affairs. We are primarily concerned with four of these districts, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 8, for later they became our present district. No. 1 was on the North side of the river, comprising what is now the First and Second Wards of the village. District No. 2 took in the Third Ward; No. 8, the Fourth Ward; and No. 3, a section south of Districts Nos. 2 and 8. The Village of Seneca Falls was growing rapidly at this time, especially the south side of the river. As has been noted District No. 1 had its school already established, but as yet there were no schools in the other three districts.

On July 18, 1833, Samuel J. Bayard, Jane C. Bayard, and William M. Bayard deeded a lot on Washington Street to Asher Tyler, John Aumock, and Samuel J. Bayard, Trustees of District No. 8, and soon thereafter a small building was erected. On October of the same year, Peter Marsulles and Mary, his wife, sold to the Trustees of District No. 2 a plot of ground on Williams Street on which a small brick building was built. District No. 3 was slow in

getting organized for it was not until 1843, that a small building was made ready for school purposes. It was August 19, 1843, that John R. Bellows and Jemima, his wife, signed a deed conveying to James Burtless, Lewis Groves, and John Pool, Trustees of the District, a plot of land situated on the Ovid Road near the junction of Bridge and Ovid Streets just south of the Lehigh Valley Railroad overhead crossing.

The Legislature of 1849 passed a bill making all the common schools of the State free. The Law declared that each district should have suitable buildings, and should conduct a school for at least four months of the year, open to all residents between the ages of five and twenty-one. Such a law was within the power of the legislature: but, in order to test the opinion of the people it was submitted to a vote of the State and ratified by a tremendous majority. The free school act was put into force so awkwardly that the unusual taxes fell unequally upon the people of the State. Those who had children were mostly satisfied. Those without children felt that they should not be taxed for the education of their neighbor's children, and made such a protest that in the following year the bill was repealed and brought the system of rate bills back again.

In 1864, the Legislature passed a bill allowing common school districts, should they so desire, upon a vote of the qualified voters of the district, to establish a free school system. School District No. 1 took advantage of this law. On September 14, 1866, eighteen qualified voters of that district petitioned the Trustees of the District to call a meeting of the legal voters of the district for the purpose of determining whether a Union Free School should be established in said district. The call for such a meeting was issued by the Trustees, Cornelius Hood, Jacob Corl, and Thomas Pease, on September 28th. Said meeting was to be held on October 9th. Owing to a lack of a quorum, the meeting was adjourned to October 12th, when by a vote of 217 in favor of the motion, District No. 1 became Union Free School District No. 1 of Seneca Falls. At this same meeting Dr. Rufus C. Dunham, Simeon Holton, and William Smalley were elected Trustees of the newly formed district. At the time of the meeting it is interesting to note that Mr. Oscar C. Smith was Principal of the school.

At the first meeting of the Trustees held October 24, 1866, the following teachers were hired:

J. N. Hammond, $14 per week.
Miss Susie English, $6 per week.
Miss Laura Kuney, $6 per week.
Miss M. J. Wickes, $6 per week.
Miss Jennie Beach, $6 per week.

These teachers commenced work October 29, 1866. Dr. Dunham, who had been made clerk of the Board, makes this notation, "Rented the house designated as the Church of God or in other words the Little House on Mynderse Street for school room at $2 per

week. Took possession October 29, 1866. Occupied by Miss Beach." At this same meeting another notation reads, "Rented the school house of Miss Leach. Took possession November 27, 1866. Miss Leach appointed teacher in the 4th department at $7 per week, including school house, commenced teaching Nov. 27."

During the year 1867, all common schools of the State were made free. In April 1867, an act was passed by the Legislature forming the Educational District of Seneca Falls, to go into effect June 1 of that year, of the four common school districts 1, 2, 3, and 8. The act named Josiah T. Miller, Simeon Holton, Burnet B. Boardman, Gilbert Wilcoxen, John Cuddeback, and Oliver S. Latham, together with the President of the Village, who at the time was William Beary, to hold office until April 18, 1868, when a new Board was to be elected at the annual Town meeting. This act after defining the powers and duties of the Board also gave it permission to enter into negotiation with the Trustees of the Seneca Falls Academy for the use of the said building for a High School for the district.

The Board met May 7, 1867, and after organizing by selecting Josiah Miller as President and Samuel Holton, Clerk, named two committees of three members each; one to confer with the Trustees of the Seneca Falls Academy with a view of making such arrangements with said Trustees as is contemplated in the law creating said Educational District. On June 3, it reported that satisfactory terms had been arranged with the Trustees of the Academy, and on that date the Academy, as such, ceased to exist and the name, Seneca Falls High School took its place.

The report of the other of the two committees is as follows: "In District No. 1, there are five teachers employed, J. N. Hammond, Principal; Mrs. Hammond, Jennie M. Wickes, Laura Kuney, and Maggie Leach with house. The whole number of pupils on roll in said district, 317; average attendance, 245; seats for 230. In District No. 2, two teachers, Frances Corl and Hattie Eastman. Number of pupils on roll, 212; average attendance, 125; seats for 106. In District No. 3, a small school, Miss Fanny Facer, teacher, at $4 per week; in District No. 8, teachers, Mrs. M. S. Barrett, $9 per week; Miss Eeles, $8 per week; Miss Tyler, with house, $9 per week; number of pupils on roll, 170; average, 124."

This one year the Board had much to do in bringing order out of chaos, but they set resolutely at work. They made necessary repairs to the various buildings. They hired the basement of the Baptist Church to relieve the crowded condition in District No. 2, placing Miss Augusta Martin in charge. Yes, they even dabbled in discipline, suspending, during the pleasure of the Board, William Palmer and Charles Curtis for improper conduct in school. These boys appeared at the next meeting of the Board and requested reinstatement. Their request was granted on promise of good behavior. A report of the Board was published during the year, in which the matter of attendance was noted. It says, "The whole number of pupils now in attendance is 1058, distributed as follows: Academy

178; Miss Wickes, 81; Miss Hood, 59; Miss Kuney, 68; Miss Beach, 60; Miss Leach, 68; Mr. Finnegan, 117; Miss Eastman, 76; Miss Martin, 62; Miss Hocknell, 42; Mrs. Barrett, 81; Miss Eeles, 85; Miss Tyler, 81."

The first meeting of the new board elected at the town meeting was held April 14, 1868. One of the members elected was Mr. Henry Stowell, who, when he resigned, had the almost unrivaled record of serving for forty-five years. Mr. C. S. Hawley was elected clerk of the Board. A memorandum in Mr. Hawley's handwriting in a later meeting reads as follows: "With the record of the foregoing meeting terminates the Clerkship of Chas. A. Hawley, extending from the 16th day of April, 1868, to this day, May 4, 1874."

On Sunday morning, August 2, 1868, at about one o'clock, the brick school in No. 4 was consumed by fire. The fire was doubtless the work of an incendiary as the building had not been occupied since the close of the term. A reward of $100 was offered for information or evidence leading to the conviction of the party or parties who set fire to the building. The reward has never been claimed. Steps were immediately taken to replace the burned building and on September 21, a tax meeting was held at which $4,000 was voted to build a new building. This building, a four room brick structure, is still standing, now the property of Mr. Howard Warner.

Immediately after the Fourth Ward School was put in operation, the citizens of the Third Ward began agitation for better school facilities in that part of the Village, which culminated in a tax meeting of the District at which time the sums of $1,000 for a new site and $8,000 for a new building were approved, April 30, 1870. The site selected was the property owned by Mr. George B. Daniels at the western end of Maynard Street. The building was ready for occupancy in 1871. The faculty of the new school was as follows: Z. D. Avery, Principal; Mrs. F. P. Usher, Miss Minnie Morris, Miss S. Hoyt, and Miss Sara Conant.

About this time music was introduced into the schools. At a meeting of the Board held September 8, 1871, "it was resolved that E. B. Cullen be employed to teach music in the schools at $4 per lesson giving one lesson in each of the four large buildings once in each week during the remainder of the term."

In the early seventies the Second Ward was growing rapidly, due in part to the development of that part of the ward known as Rumseyville. Mr. John A. Rumsey, who was at the head of the development, petitioned the Board for school facilities in this new section. A lot was leased from Hiram Heath on Chapel Street, west of Rumsey Street, and a building erected thereon, costing $760.60. The school was opened in 1872 with Miss Carrie Parish as the teacher. This school was closed in 1886.

The next year, 1873, a two-room school was established on Clinton Street where the home of Mrs. William Hull is now located. The school on Mynderse Street was abandoned and Miss

Ellen Plate who had been teaching there was transferred to this school. Additional class rooms having been added to the building on Park Street, the pupils of this school were gradually transferred there and in 1884 the school was discontinued.

St. Patrick's Parochial School was opened in 1876. The building stands on West Bayard Street. The Sisters in charge are of the Order of St. Joseph.

The School on State Street was opened to take the place of the old building on Park Street in 1905. Soon after, the old building was demolished. Much credit may be given to Commissioner Stowell and Dr. John Crosby for this building. Mr. Stowell was the first to advocate such a building, and Dr. Crosby, then Member of Assembly, steered the bill through the Legislature, giving the Board the authority to construct the building.

The latest building program was that of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton school on Garden Street. With the building of this school house, the other public schools on the south side of the river were united in this one building.

In 1886, the title of Principal was changed to that of Superintendent. This was made possible by a regulation of the State Education Department, giving an extra quota of $800 to villages of 5000 or more that employed a Superintendent giving full time to supervision of all the schools of the district. Professor A. C. McLachlan was named as the first Superintendent, with Miss Drake as Vice-Principal of the Academy.

Mr. McLachlan resigned in 1892, to be succeeded by F. S. Porter who died in 1897 while in office. Then followed Charles T. Andrews, C. Willard Rice, Everett VanAllen, F. J. Medden, L. R. Dona, A. C. Hamilton, and Hubert Mott. Mr. Frank Page is the present incumbent with Mr. Frank Vogel, Principal of the Academic Department. Miss Cora Matthews is Principal of the First Ward School, and Mrs. Jessie Matthews, of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton School.

This is a summary of the primary educational history of our village. The story of secondary education is as follows. As soon as the public school system of the State was organized, the wants of the community for rudimentary education were developed as I have described. Select schools were sustained for furnishing further instruction in the higher branches. These, naturally, prepared the way for an organized Academy. In May, 1832, steps were taken towards organizing a stock company for the purpose of supporting a school of academic grade and the following subscription became the basis of the Seneca Falls Academy: "Whereas it is important in order to promote the interests of education to establish academies in the mode prescribed and pointed out by law, now therefore, in order to effect the said object by establishing an academy in the Village of Seneca Falls, we, whose names are hereunto subscribed, in consideration of the premises and in consideration that the trustees hereinafter named have undertaken to appropriate for

said object the money and property to be paid by this subscription, —hereby severally promise and agree to pay the money and convey the property opposite our names, respectively to Richard E. Gay, William H. King, Anthony Dey, Matthias B. Bellows, and Asher Tyler.

In trust for the purpose aforesaid or to such trustees as may hereafter be appointed by the Regents of the University, or their successors in office the sums of money to be paid as follows: One-third in four months, one-third in eight months and the remaining conveyed when said trustees or their successors shall direct. The stock shall be divided into shares of $25 each and in all elections, ballotings, and votes prior to the incorporation of such academy, each share entitles its holder to one vote; provided, however, that if the sum of $2,000, excepting real property, be not subscribed within thirty days from this date, the subscription shall be void. Dated May 12, 1832."

There were 48 signers, the total number of shares subscribed was 97. The heaviest stockholders were Wilhelmus Mynderse, 20 shares, and Richard Gay, 8 shares. Most of the other signers had one share.

The first recorded meeting of the stockholders was in July 1833. Jonathan Metcalf was chosen chairman and Charles L. Hoskins, Secretary. To this meeting the trustees reported that Col. Wilhelmus Mynderse had deeded them the lot on which the building stands, that on this they had erected a nearly completed building at a cost of $1,666.20, and that they had $508.80 in uncollected subscriptions. They were directed to collect what was possible from the subscriptions and expend it in their discretion in finishing the building and improving the grounds.

A petition to the Regents to incorporate the Academy was refused on the grounds of insufficient endowment. In 1837, Col. Mynderse died, bequeathing by his will $2000 to the Academy. The same year it was incorporated as the Seneca Falls Academy by special act of the legislature, and in 1839 was admitted by the Regents to a share in their distribution. On December 21, 1838, there were in attendance 59 students.

In 1841, the trustees received $1,500 from the Auburn and Rochester R. R. Company for damages in appropriating a portion of its grounds.

From 1850 to 1860 the school was in its most prosperous years. From a catalogue issued by Charles A. Avery, Principal, in 1853, it is noted that there were registered 108 males and 132 females, a total of 240. It also states that "This institution has again been designated by Regents of the University of the State of New York as one of those to which is entrusted during a period for the next two academical years the education of young persons for the responsible business of teaching." From its early beginning until 1861, Charles L. Hoskins was the Secretary and Treasurer and vir-

tually the business manager of the institution. In 1839 its assets were $5,595 and in 1859 they were $8,796.

The growth of union high schools in connection with the growing public school system of the state, however, began to diminish the prosperity of private schools, and the Seneca Falls Academy suffered with others until finally the breaking out of the Civil War completed its prostration.

In 1862, William P. Pollard was elected Treasurer. The funds of the corporation had already been impaired and five more years were spent in a vain attempt to maintain a school. Then the building and appurtenances were turned over at a nominal rental, to the Board of Education of the newly organized district, as I have already related. The treasurer gathered together the remaining funds, investing them for future educational benefits. The name academy was changed to high school.

In the winter of 1884-5 steps were taken for the reorganization of the board of trustees of the Academy, that corporation not having held a meeting in some ten years, and May 1, 1885, a legally constituted Board was formed. The object of this reorganization was the transfer of the Academy property to the Board of Education of Seneca Falls. On June 1, 1885, this Board of Trustees passed formal resolutions tendering the property of their corporation to the Educational District of Seneca Falls on condition that a suitable building be erected with the funds supplemented by money of the district and that a school of academic grade be forever maintained, said school to bear the incorporate name of Mynderse. Three days later, June 4, the Board of Education by formal resolution accepted the gift.

The Trustees of Seneca Falls Academy held a final meeting on March 20, 1886. Formally reciting the fact that all the conditions precedent to the gift had been complied with, they directed that the deeds and instruments placed in escrow with Albert Cook be delivered to the Board of Education, and having thus completed their mission, adjourned **sine die.**

Soon after the District took over the Academy for a High School for the District, the number of pupils began to increase until finally the old building had outlived its usefulness and in 1885 was torn down to let rise on the same site Mynderse Academy, No. 1. This building was erected at a cost of $25,000. The amount of real estate and personal property transferred by the Academy Trustees had amounted to $20,000. Some of us here assembled tonight remember the year 1885-6 when during the building of the academy, the High School pupils carried on their studies in the second floor of the Third Ward School house under the tutelage of Prof. McLachlen, Miss Pattison, Miss Blanche Daniels and Miss Fannie Berry. The new building was ready for occupancy in September and on the 6th of that month it began its honorable career as Mynderse Academy, fulfilling its objective until the present structure was built. The bell taken from the old academy was used at first, it being replaced by one presented by Mr. Loomis. The old

one was placed in the Third Ward building and was destroyed when that building was burned.

May I mention at this time a name familiar to most of us, that of Mr. Michael McCarthy. "Mike" as he was known to the boys and girls of the school was appointed caretaker on September 7th, the day after the building was opened for service and remained its only keeper until it was closed, a period of nearly forty years. Mr. McCarthy passed on to his reward on the same night that the Board signed a contract for the tearing down of the building.

To go back to the Seneca Falls Academy, during its thirty-four years of existence there were fourteen principals,—twelve men and two women, S. Adeline Pollard and Nina S. Bascom. These two women later did valuable service in the new High School. The tenure of many of them was short, — one year or less. They went from teaching to other professions, mostly law or the ministry. Cotton M. Crittenden had the longest term, — eleven years. It is reported that later he became a noted ornithologist, preceding Audubon. Oren Root came in 1845 remaining four years. He and his son, Oren, Jr., who was a student in the school, were professors of mathematics for several years at Hamilton College. By the students of the college they were known as Square and Cube Root respectively. The elder Root while in Seneca Falls made a large collection of minerals and geological specimens which upon going to Hamilton he sold for $4,000. When he came to Seneca Falls, Miss Charlotte B. Buttrick was preceptress. She afterwards became Mrs. William A. Sackett. She was a sister of Mrs. Root, and no doubt had some influence in bringing Mr. Root to Seneca Falls. Charles A. Avery succeeded Mr. Root, dying while in office. About this time the school probably reached its greatest prosperity.

Miss Henion relates that in 1853, during Mr. Avery's time "a belligerent and ungovernable element had crept in among the boys and they openly boasted that they would turn any teacher out, but when one Monday morning Mr. Gilbert Walker walked in, a tall, athletic, six-footer with a big raw hide in his hand, Quaker meeting reigned throuhout the school rooms and a permanent peace descended on all parties." Mr. Walker was afterward Governor of Virginia at the close of the Civil War.

Samuel G. Williams, 1856-57, went from here to Cleveland, Ohio, as Principal of its High School and later was Professor of Pedagogy at Cornell University. Charles D. Vail became a member of Hobart College, Geneva, New York, a position he filled up to the time of his death. Next in importance to the Principal was the Preceptress. Miss Lucretia Wilson was the first, serving from 1833-39. Then came the following: Mary T. Chamberlain, Charlotte B. Buttrick, Frances M. Woodworth, Ann L. Frazer, Frances P. Hoskins, Laura Hoskins, Caroline M. Bull, Annette Hoskins, Sophia B. Gay, and S. Adeline Pollard.

During its existence as the Seneca Falls High School it had the following Principals: William Nellis, who was dismissed from the service on April 30th, serving for eight months. Mr. Nellis did

not take his dismissal very kindly, brought suit against the Board, securing a judgment of several hundred dollars which was finally paid. Rev. Francis D. Hodgson followed Mr. Nellis. He later became a Methodist minister. Ezra B. Fancher served for eight years. If I am rightly informed, he later conducted a private school in New York City. He was a progressive educator, evidently, for it was during his term of office that our formal commencements were inaugurated, and the Guion and Chamberlain donations made the annual prize speaking contest one of the popular school events of the year. The first formal commencement was Friday, July 2, 1875. Ione Van Zandt, Fred W. DeMott, Edith Jennings, Charles Jennings, Isabel Crawford, and James Lawrence, six in all, were the members of that class. In 1946, the class numbered seventy-nine, and this number is small compared with several classes preceding it.

The first of the annual speaking contests was held in connection with the commencement exercises. Mr. Harrison Chamberlain and General Guion for several years donated prizes to the winners. The first of these contests was held Friday afternoon, June 30, 1882, at two o'clock in Daniels Hall. The speakers were as follows: Guion Prize, Homer W. Baker, Horace D. Knight, Jonathan Van Arsdale; Chamberlin prize, Lena R. Bailey, Sadie L. Cheney, Minnie Wessell.

Following Mr. Fancher as Principal came George F. Sawyer. He remained one year only. Then came Mr. Archibald McLachlan, the last of the Principals of the High School. He served from 1883-85, and then became Principal of Mynderse Academy. Preceptresses were Mina S. Bascom, E. Osbern, Libbie S. Coates, M. Louise Pattison. Mr. McLachlan continued until 1892.

A few years ago the object of the curriculum of our academic grades was mostly to prepare the boys and girls attending for college. Today the scope of training has been enlarged so that students who do not care to enter college have the opportunity to take such courses as will prepare them to better their conditions after leaving school. Thus we see in the better schools such courses as Home Economics, Business, Machine and Metal Work, etc.

When the district was first formed in 1868, it had fifteen teachers. Today there are fifty-three. The total expenditure for that year was $6,337.19, while this year's budget calls for $202,425. Someone has said that comparisons are odious, but in this case it shows that the citizens of our school district believe thoroughly in education and are willing to back up its faith in education by opening up their pocketbooks in order to pay the cost.

As we glance back and view the evolution of our present school system, the question naturally arises what has the future in store. No one can tell, but the present tendency is to centralize. A state committee has been at work for sometime plotting the State into centralized districts. There is a master plan for Seneca Falls, which includes fourteen or fifteen districts to consolidate with District No. 1 into one district. This has been delayed for the present owing

to restrictions placed upon the proposed district, which makes it too costly at the present time. Time will tell how the matter will end.

Early Police System of Seneca Falls

by

FREDERICK J. MEDDEN

December 11, 1947

The birthday of New York as a Sovereign State was on Sunday, April 20, 1777, for it was on that date the first Constitution was adopted. Forty-two articles were created with appropriate government machinery "by the good people of this State." Naturally the colonial government was taken as a model. The old judicial system and also the city, town, and county governments were continued substantially unchanged.

During colonial days, as the population increased and spread out over considerable territory, in order to facilitate law enforcement, counties and towns were formed somewhat similar to those of the mother country, England. Consequently, most of the local political units which we have today firmly established in our State date back to colonial days. The greatest transformation from Colonial to State function was in the manner of selecting the officers of these subdivisions of the state. They were to be elected by popular vote rather than by appointment. Article 29 says that "Town Clerks, Supervisors, Assessors, Constables, and Collectors and all other officers heretofore eligible by the people shall always continue to be eligible in the manner directed by the present or future acts of the legislature." It also states "that Sheriffs and Coroners be annually appointed and that no person shall be capable of holding either of said offices more than four years successively, nor the sheriff of holding any other office at the same time."

It was further "ordained that it shall be in the power of the future legislatures of this State for the convenience and advantages of the good people thereof to divide the same into counties and districts as shall to them appear necessary." Provision was made for the appointment of all officers, other than those who by the constitution are directed to be otherwise appointed shall be appointed by a committee named by the assembly. This committee called the Council consisted of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor or the President of the Senate and one of the Senators from each great district.

Under this act, and in 1794, the lands comprising the present counties of Seneca, Wayne, Cayuga, and Onondaga were erected into a new county know as Onondaga County. The first sheriff of this county was John Harris. He served for two terms. Mr. Harris came to the east side of Cayuga Lake in 1778, and in partnership with James Bennett on the west shore, operated a ferry. In 1801 he moved to West Cayuga (Bridgeport) where he established a general store, ashery, and a distillery. In 1806 he was sent to Congress as a representative from this district.

Cayuga County was erected in 1799, with Cayuga Ferry the county seat of our county for the time being. Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions were held there and until a gaol was to

be provided at the Ferry, prisoners were to be confined in the gaol of the County of Ontario, Canandaigua. Joseph Annin, who was interested in a land company at Bridgeport was appointed the first Sheriff of the new county.

On the 25th of March 1800, our County was provided with a gaol at the Cayuga Ferry as per enactment of that date which states, "Whereas Joseph Annin of the County of Cayuga hath by his petition represented that the gaol inconveniences and much expense is incurred by the transportation of prisoners from said County to the County of Ontario and that a building hath been lately erected at the village of Cayuga of sufficient size and dimensions to accommodate all prisoners of said county with conveniences and strength to afford the most complete security for safe keeping and that the proprietors of said building have offered the use there for the purpose of a gaol without any charge or expense, etc. Therefore the log house erected by the Cayuga Bridge Company at or near the easterly end of said bridge on the margin of Cayuga Lake shall be considered as a common gaol." This gaol may have had strength to afford the most complete security for the safe keeping of prisoners, but it must have lacked some of the conveniences common to our modern gaols, for on December 12, 1803, a Seneca Indian, called Indian John, was incarcerated in it charged with shooting Ezekiel Crane, a pioneer of what is now Tyre. On the following morning Indian John was found nearly frozen to death because of the inclement weather. He was removed to Ontario County, tried at Aurora, and later executed. He asked that he might be shot but the request could not be granted. As he stood on the platform with a pipe and some leaf tobacco at his belt, he told the officials that with these he wished to smoke a pipe of peace with Crane in the land of spirits.

Junius became a political unit in 1803. The first Justices of the Peace were Lewis Birdsell and Jessie Southwick. At a subsequent meeting held March 1st of that year, Jacob Chamberlain and Servius Swift were chosen constables.

A year after the formation of the Town of Junius, Seneca County was created. Ovid was made the County seat. In 1806, a Courthouse and gaol were erected. A council of which George Clinton was chairman named the civil officers; Lewis Birdsell and Jessie Southwick were renamed Justices of the town of Junius, and William Smith, Sheriff, and Charles Thomas, Coroner.

On April 22, 1831, the Village of Seneca Falls was incorporated. It provided for the election of five trustees. These trustees were to meet ten days after their election and appoint one of their members to be President of the Board of Trustees. Ansel Bascom was named. No provision for police protection was made at that time. However, the President could hear and receive complaints and other information of the breach of the act of incorporation or of any of the by-laws or regulations of the said village. It was likewise his duty to see that the laws were enforced and faithfully executed, and to cause to be produced all offenders against any violations of the said act or any of the said by-laws or regulations.

In 1837, a new charter was granted by the Legislature. Here we find the first visible effort made to organize an efficient law enforcement department in our village. This charter provided for the election of a police constable and the appointment of a watchman, and the prescription of their powers and duties. At the first election under this charter, John L. Bigelow was elected President and David B. Lum police constable. On June 25th, the following were appointed Watchers: Sylvester Halsey, Lambert VanAllstyn, Sheldon Wood, and John S. Bristol. On July 19th, the following resolutions were adopted: "It shall be the duty of the Police Constable to take care that the ordinances of the Board of Trustees are faithfully executed and to report to the Board of Trustees or to the President all such violations of the ordinances and by-laws of the Village as shall from time to time come to his knowledge."

The Village Watch were required to take the following oath: "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will well and faithfully execute the trust imposed in me as Captain of the Watch (or Watchman) without fear, favor, affection, hatred, oppression, or malice, but in all things honestly, diligently, and impartially execute the same to the best of my understanding." The working hours were from nine o'clock in the evening until sunrise during the year. The Watchmen were divided into two classes, one of which kept a night watch in rotation each night during the year, and the Captain of the Watch took command of each class, and one class with the Captain, in its turn, assembled at the watch house on every evening at half-past eight o'clock and after nine o'clock in the evening patrolled the streets for such term and in such direction as their captain directed, not contrary to the provisions of any ordinance or resolution of the Board of Trustees. Stephen S. Viele was appointed Village Prosecuting Attorney.

The next revision of the charter was in 1860. This charter gave the Board of Trustees power "to appoint two police constables" and to erect and maintain a village prison for the temporary detention of all persons charged with the commission of any crime, etc., within the village. For many years the lockup was located in the rear of No. 3 fire house on Bayard St. When the present village hall was purchased, it was abandoned for quarters in the present building. The President of the village was given power, for cause shown, to order the discharge of any person confined in said village prison. The police constables were to execute the ordinances of said village "under the direction of the President who shall be Chief of Police", Dr. G. W. Davis.

The revision of the charter in 1865 did not materially change any of the provisions of the 1860 charter. William Beary was President of the village and by virtue of his office acted as Chief of Police.

In the 1874 revision of the Charter, the first move to have a village police justice was incorporated. Up to this time, village cases were taken before any of the town justices for action. Power was now given the Board of Trustees to name one of these justices,

residing in the village, to act as Village Police Justice for all cases arising in the village, and to determine the hours during the day when he was to be on duty. "In case of absence or disability of the said justice to act or perform the duties of his office, the same may be taken before any other justice of the said town, residing in the village. Henry Stowell was the President of the village, and by virtue of his office was continued as Chief of Police.

J. Marshall Guion, a town police justice, and a resident of the village was appointed to the office of Police Justice. With him were appointed as constables, Thomas Hutchins and William Smith. In 1875, a petition signed by many of our prominent citizens asked that an amendment to the charter be added so that the sum of $900 might be included in the budget for police protection. Henry Ingalls was appointed constable this same year. This charter served the village until 1902, and among the Town Justices who served as Police Justice may I mention the following: Mr. J. Marshall Guion, as I mentioned was the first. Among others were Dr. Rufus Dunham, William Clark, Ernest Gould, William Simpson, Daniel Moran, Henry Trautman, N. B. Stevens, Oren Coons. In 1890, there were three policemen, namely Myles Flanagan, William Smith, and Otis Fisher.

In the gay eighteen nineties, the taxpayers of our Town and Village were astonished at the large bills presented for services by certain official of our town. An analysis of these bills showed that certain officials were carrying on what at the time was called the "vagrant and tramp act." Certain officials had an understanding among themselves as to how their fees might be increased. The scheme was to arrest vagrants and tramps, take them before certain justices, where they were tried and sentenced to the Waterloo jail for a few days. When released they returned to Seneca Falls to be again arrested and sentenced to jail, only to be released again, and then again. In this way fees, court expenses, transportation, etc. amounted to a considerable amount. Finally certain justices and constables were retired to private life, and the new ones elected to succeed them began sending vagrants and tramps to the penitentiary at Monroe County, not for a few days, but in some cases for a term of six months. As soon as this new order went into effect, vagrants and tramps became a scarce article in our community.

On December 2, 1901, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, it was resolved "that a proposition be submitted in January 1902, for incorporation under the Village Law." Dr. Follett was President at the time, and much credit is due him for the part he took in advancing such a movement. The resolution was adopted by the voters, and since that time our village has been under what is known as Chapter 64 of the Consolidated Laws of New York. At an election held March 18th, of the same year, Dr. J. Spencer Purdy was elected President, and P. J. Ryan, Police Justice.

The term of Police Justice does not correspond with other officers of the village, but commences January 1st, following the

annual election and is for four years. The law is explicit in defining the duties and responsibilities of both the Police Justice and the village policemen. It states the jurisdiction of the Court, both criminal and civil, the disposition of penalties, manner of compensation, records, and other matters pertaining to the police department.

On March 24, 1902, the Board of Trustees appointed the following policemen: William Smith, Stuart Hill, Patrick McKeon, and John Clary. On December 12, of the same year, our community was saddened by the death of Mr. McKeon, an uncle of Patrolman Matthew McKeon, our guest this evening. Mr. McKeon, while on duty patrolling our Main street was electrocuted. His untimely death started an agitation which finally resulted in having the dangerous overhead wires of Fall Street placed in cables underground. So far as the records show, Mr. McKeon's death is the only one of any of our policemen while on active duty.

For a time the responsibility of directing the police department was vested in a municipal council. Later, about 1927, this council was abolished and the duties again assumed by the Board of Trustees. This council in 1906, appointed William Smith, Joe Clark, John Clary ,and Stuart Hill as policemen.

This same year, 1906, Alexander J. Byrne was elected to the office of Police Justice, succeeding Mr. P. J. Ryan. He served until 1918, when Walter Arnold was elected. In 1922, Mr. Byrne was again elected. Thomas Kennedy was elected in 1926, and in 1930, Mr. Byrne was again elected and since that date he has held the office continuously up to the present date. Out of the forty-eight years since the village law went into effect, he has been our Police Justice for thirty-six years. Not only at home has he been honored by the electorate, but he has also been honored by the magistrates of the State, assembled in their annual state meetings, by being elected to office several times.

Should the Justice be unable to perform the duties of his office, it is incumbent upon the village Board of Trustees to appoint an acting Justice to perform the duties during such absence. The offices of our magistrate are located in our Municipal Building in close proximity to the Police headquarters and the lock-up, and are so arranged that the law is fully complied with in the arraignment of both juveniles and adults.

The Present Seneca Falls Police Department

by

PATROLMAN MATTHEW McKEON

December 1, 1947

The present Seneca Falls Police Department is composed of eight (8) uniformed men, including Chief James S. Woods, Sergeant John R. Oakes, and the following Patrolmen: Peter Suglia, Matthew McKeon, Anthony Casamassima, Carl Frappolli, Francis Flynn, and Charles Flynn. In addition to the above mentioned, there are three (3) special traffic policemen who guard school crossings at certain times of the day, and a police stenographer.

About twelve (12) years ago, the police department was placed under Civil Service, which did away with the old-time custom of appointing men to the police department because of their political affiliations. Without taking any credit from any of the men who served faithfully and well as members of the department, the old system was obviously a poor one. Almost always, after a village election, there would be several new policemen appointed. These men knew that their connection with the department was limited to the time that their particular party remained in power, and even though they might have been, and in many cases were, conscientious and brave, too often it happened that by the time they had become good law-enforcement men, control of village affairs passed from their particular party to another, and their day as policemen was over. The insecurity, and as always, the low pay, usually did not attract young men. Too often it attracted men who were not able to do hard physicial work, and in one case, a man was highly recommended for appointment as a patrolman merely on the strength of his "liking to walk".

Under Civil Service any man appointed to the police department is reasonably secure in his position and can go about the performance of his duties without fear or favor to any individual or political party.

The requirements under Civil Service for appointment as patrolman to the department today are as follows: The candidate must be twenty-one (21) to thirty-five (35) years of age at the time of his written examination. He must be a resident of the Village for one (1) year prior to the written examination; a citizen of the United States; and a high school graduate. He must be at least five feet, eight inches in height, and weigh at least one hundred sixty pounds, and must be of good moral character. Finally after successfully passing the written examination, he must pass a rigid physical examination. After twenty-five years of service, or upon reaching the age of sixty years, a member of the department is eligible to be pensioned under half pay.

Probably no man has seen more changes in law enforcement locally than James S. Woods, Chief of the department. A veteran of World War I, James Woods was appointed a patrolman in 1926. In 1933, after seven years of diligent conscientious performance of

his duties, he was appointed Chief of Police, succeeding another well-known and highly respected police officer, Joseph M. Casey. Today Chief Woods is well and favorably known throughout central New York, especially among other policemen, who have a high respect for his proved ability in solving many of the difficult cases which have come to his attention in past years. During World War II, Chief Woods was placed in a difficult position because of having lost so many of his men to military service, and at one time could claim the distinction of having more of his policemen in military service than he had on the pay-roll. Of the patrolmen who entered military service, one, Thomas Flynn, gave his life for his country.

Sergeant John R. Oakes, also a veteran of World War I, has been a member of the police department for nineteen years. He was appointed Sergeant in June, 1946, and has been of great assistance to Chief Woods in the handling of the department.

Of the younger patrolmen, one is now taking a course in criminology; and a second is interested in becoming a photographer and finger print expert, and a third is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Washington, D. C. In addition, all members of the department take In-service police training courses which are conducted periodically by the FBI in such near-by cities as Auburn and Geneva.

The FBI National Academy in Washington, D. C. is a training school primarily for the purpose of training members of local, county, and state agencies in various phases of law enforcement, with special emphasis placed on methods of teaching, and the organization of police schools. Each session in the National Academy continues for a period of twelve weeks, and to the greatest possible extent the selection of subjects for each session is made for the purpose of meeting the needs of each class. Usually the courses divide themselves under the following headings:

Twelve weeks of general police work covering the following:
Police organization and administration;
Police records and report writing;
Police photography and investigation methods and techniques;
Fingerprinting; juvenile control; fire-arms;
Traffic control;
Setting up and operating a police laboratory.

At the present time the FBI National Academy has about fifteen hundred graduates scattered throughout the United States, its possessions and several foreign countries. It is, by far, the best school of its kind in the world, and a large percentage of those who have graduated have subsequently received promotions within their own departments. Likewise, it should be pointed out that numerous instances have been reported by the graduates of the use of knowledge acquired while attending the academy, which aided in solving old cases pending for a number of years, and which made the job easier when they were called upon to work on new cases, presenting more than usual difficulty. Likewise, in most instances, the instruction by the graduates of other members of their depart-

ments has raised the standard of efficiency of the entire police agency.

Today, when the average tax-payer is informed that part of his tax dollar is going towards the maintenance of an eight-man department, he is quite likely to think that his village is being over-policed. This is especially true if he is old enough to recall the "good ol' days", when three or four men seemed to be able to handle policing of the community; however, when it is remembered that today the men work only eight hours a day, six days a week, as compared to the old time system of twelve hours a day for seven days a week, it can be seen that the eight men available do not make the department as strong in man-power as it appears on the surface. During the night time three men are on duty from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. During the day, not more than two men are ever available. With the increasing number of requests for police escorts of funerals, pay-rolls, etc., as well as supervision of athletic contests and other public gatherings, all of which cut into the ordinary duties of the department, there are many times when the force is spread out dangerously thin. It should be pointed out that Seneca Falls is being policed under the old idea which provided for one man for each thousand population. Today in most sections of the country it has been found necessary to increase the ratio to the point where it is now two men per one thousand population.

At the present time the department is woefully lacking in some very important items of equipment which have been in use for some years by most police departments. The communication system, which was inefficient at its best, is now totally obsolete. The method of keeping records of work done, complaints received, offenses committed, property stolen and recovered, etc., is very inadequate. The only weapons available to the department are the .38 caliber revolvers that the men carry while on duty. The need for heavier and more powerful weapons is very urgent. However, in connection with the above-mentioned deficiencies, we are pleased to say that the Village Board has recently appropriated money for radio and a records system for keeping adequate, up-to-date police records.

With the addition of radio in particular, and some other less important items already mentioned, there would be very little reason for Seneca Falls failure to have one of the best equipped police departments in central New York. It is to be hoped that such a goal will be reached in the not too distant future.

Negro Residents of Seneca Falls in Bygone Days

by

MISS CAROLINE F. LESTER

March 11, 1943

During the mid-1920's one of my nieces taught in the high school in a small western New York village called Filmore. This old prosperous community was made up of retired farmers' families, younger groups who carried on the necessary industries, and their children. During the Easter vacation of that year, a group of the high school seniors made the trip to Washington, chaperoned by some of the older teachers. Suitable hotel accommodations had been secured and everything was in line for a happy time in the nation's capital. At breakfast time the morning of their arrival, the first surprise of the trip presented itself, for these young people from Filmore, New York, were served by negro waiters, and none of them had ever seen a colored person! The shock of seeing the "image of God carved in ebony" did not diminish their pleasure, but the story surprised me exceedingly when I heard it. Many times I have pondered upon it, and now when in our own village I know of only four colored persons acting as help in homes, and no colored families with children in schools or churches, I thought that some memories of the negroes who have lived here would be worth recording for the files of our Society.

Before discussing my own memories, I may mention that we have a record of at least two pioneer settlers of Seneca County who came here with a negro slave. Dr. Silas Halsey, a pioneer settler of the town of Ovid had lived on Long Island during Revolutionary War days. As he and his family were ardent patriots and the population of Long Island were more or less Tory in their sympathies, Dr. Halsey, an able and well educated physician, accompanied by a negro slave and excellent equipment for making a home in the wilderness, came to this region in the 1770's. Our own friendly citizen of bygone days, David Bud Lum, has left the record that his father and family accompanied by a negro slave came to Seneca Falls from New Jersey in the early 1800's. In the early issues of Seneca County newspapers one finds advertisements requesting the return of run-away slaves to their owners. Thus even in those early times there were negroes in this locality.

The close of the Civil War no doubt encouraged a type of self-reliant negro to migrate to the north. I do not know what brought certain ones to this village, but among my earliest memories is that of amiable negro acquaintances. As early as 1876, my friendship with Aunt Hannah, the cook at Judge Miller's began. The Miller home stood on what is now the vacant lot forming the southeast corner of Beryl Avenue. Our home occupied the space between Miss Morris' home and that of Mr. Maynard Harpst. The Millers sold milk, as did most of the aristocrats of Seneca Falls, in those days, — the Goulds, Mynderses, and Swabys, — and I was permitted as a great treat to cross the street with a little pail, go to the Miller's kitchen door, and present the ticket for a quart of milk.

The tall, gaunt negress, Aunt Hannah, with turbaned head and comfortable smile would fill my pail with milk and give me a few pieces of candy. This small task became an event to me because of Aunt Hannah and the candy, and I recall being much disappointed when a negro man, John Thomas, by name, came to our back door with a yoke across his shoulders from which depended two large pails of fresh milk which was most unsanitarily dipped into our receptacle. The Millers were delivering their milk and I had no more candy from Aunt Hannah. In fact she seems to have disappeared from my memory after that time.

Not so John Thomas. He lived in our village and owned a house on upper State Street. He and his wife and daughter were worthy citizens of our village for the remainder of their lives. John worked the gardens for many families, our own among them, and "subdued" the soil, as he spoke of it, honestly. John had been a slave and I have heard him tell of the scars on his back made by the lashes of the whip of brutal overseers. Later I shall speak of John Thomas again, in a more romantic connection.

A contemporary of John Thomas was Saul Butler. Saul Butler was a teamster and drove his horse and dray here in town for many years. He too owned a home on North State Street near where the stand pipe now stands. He was a diligent, sober, and respected citizen. I do not recall that he had any family. Perhaps his family life had been lived before he came to our village, for he was older than John Thomas, and perhaps he had become separated from those belonging to him during the war. Whatever his condition in earlier days, he lived the life of a free man in our village for many years.

The most decorative of our colored citizens of those days, however, was Abby Gay. She was called Abby Gay because she worked for Mr. Richard Gay who preceded my father as the owner of my home in Cayuga St. Probably when she arrived in our village she was simply Abby and assumed the name Gay out of love and respect for her employer. I can see Abby clearly in my mind's eye, as she walked down the street to market of a summer day, attired in bright print dress, white apron, and neckerchief, and a gay turban around her head. She always carried a large willow basket and it was filled with provisions as she returned up the street. She was stout and squarely built and, like many of her race, never seemed to change in general appearance. In the winter she wore a red woolen hood trimmed with swansdown, instead of the turban, when she went to town or church. Abby was an ardent Episcopalian and attended services at old Trinity Church on Bayard Street. Mr. Gay died in the 1870's, and then Abby lived alone somewhere in the village. She herself died in the 1880's and left quite a little property. One of her bequests I well recall. It was a legacy of $100 to Lily Grennell, the blondest little girl I ever knew, daughter of the rector of Trinity Church. We all felt that Abby had admired and possibly secretly envied the little girl with long golden hair.

Belonging to the group I have been describing was Ruby, the colored woman who lived in a small cabin at Bridgeport. Her tiny

hut stood in a shady nook just west of the old hotel that formerly occupied the southwest corner as one turns from the turnpike to the lake road. As we drove down to the lake we used to watch for Ruby sitting near her cabin or working in her garden. She was a somewhat, stout, elderly, very black woman, who lived entirely alone. I never heard that she had a sirname and it seems more than likely that she was one of those who came north by means of the "underground railroad" and decided to remain near the lake.

By the time I was seven or eight years old Ruby was a decrepit old creature, pitied by everyone. About that time the mothers of my friends and myself thought that their daughters should learn to sew. Mrs. Swaby, always a practical person, basted together a half-dozen kitchen holders and we were asked to come to her home to learn to sew them "over and over" with the plan that our mothers would purchase the completed articles. After threading needles, learning our thimble fingers, and struggling to make knots at the ends of our thread, we finally succeeded in our work. As a reward for our efforts, we were promised that the money we earned should be used for old Ruby at the lake. The group had already assumed the name of Ruby Society, and through Mrs. Swaby's efforts and our attempts we finally had enough money to purchase dress material for the dress that Mrs. Swaby and Mrs. Baird made. Other articles of comfort were added by our families and one autumn Saturday morning the members of the Ruby Society were driven in Mrs. Gould's carriage to present our gifts to Ruby. It was our first experience in this kind of work — work for the aged and ailing — and we have always recalled it with pleasure. Ruby was very old at that time and truly appreciative of our gifts. She lived only a year or two longer. To Gertie Bellows Allardt, Nellie Baird Williams, Alice Knapp, and myself, the R. S. is an almost sacred memory.

In vivid contrast with the foregoing highly respected colored people of the late 1870's there was one, George Wycoff. He belonged to the class that found pleasure and profit in sweeping out saloons, hanging about livery stables, or doing small tasks for a coin or two. He and his wife, Jane, lived in a cabin in a field on the southern outskirts of the village and are even yet remembered by a few of the older residents. My brother's story of "George Wycopp" as the boys called him, illustrates the type he belonged to, quite as common among white as black people. It was election day in the pre-voting machine era when little white ballots containing the names of candidates were put into a ballot box. Some official was challenging George Wycoff's use of his ballot and questioning him as to whether or not he had received money from anyone to guide him in voting. "No, sure 'nuf, Marse B., I'se not received money for my vote. I wouldn't do such a thing. Del Bellows, he just gave me a half ton of coal to help him be supervisor."

During the 1880's, not long after Abby Gay's death, there appeared in Seneca Falls, a truly picturesque and romantic colored man. His name was Jacob Cain. Tall, well built, with a handsome

face and bearing, he was a negro to admire and remember. He established his residence in a wooden building belonging to the Miller family on the lot now occupied by the First Ward School. This building had been used as a bowling alley by the Miller boys and Jacob Cain converted it into a workshop, store house, and home for many years. Soon after his arrival in the village it became known that he was an expert in special kinds of housecleaning, especially cleaning and laying heavy carpets. In those days few homes had hard wood floors and the taking up, cleaning, and tacking down of a body brussels carpet was an arduous task. The strong arms and good judgment of Jacob Cain were much in demand for this work, and the achievement of gaining his promise for a certain date, and having him arrive at the desired hour was no small domestic triumph. His good nature in promising, combined with the negro tendency to delay had to be taken into consideration when awaiting his desired presence. But when the carpet was once on the floor, and his strong arms had drawn it into the proper corners, and the long tacks — longer than other people used — had been hit with his special hammer, the smoothness and perfection of fit of the carpet delighted his employer.

The lowly work of carpet laying was not Jacob Cain's only accomplishment. He was a worker in upholstery, too, and was fond of handsome furniture. In fact long before his patrons apreciated "antiques" Jacob Cain attended auctions of old village families and acquired tables, sofas, and chairs that the descendants of these families afterwards coveted.

At special times Jacob Cain divested himself of his working clothes and ticking apron and arrayed himself in a dress suit to become a waiter at a party. I well recall seeing him in this capacity at Mrs. Paul Kendig's wedding reception where he presided over the punch bowl, using proper discretion in the distribution of its contents.

During the period of Jacob Cain's life in Seneca Falls, he had lived alone and apparently had no family connections. It was reported that during the Civil War he had been a body servant — that was an expression used then — for General Wayne McVeigh. This seems more or less likely, for his good manners, and knowledge of the social amenities were evidence of early refined surroundings. As time passed, however, Jacob Cain apparently acquired some means and no doubt a longing for home life prompted him to make a trip to the south. In the city of Washington he became acquainted with a woman of his own race and of suitable age, and when he returned to the village it was rumored that Jacob Cain was going to be married. This report threw a glamor of even greater romance about the handsome negro and every one was interested. Finally we heard that Jacob with John Thomas as his best man had gone to Washington to be married. Then followed the most pitifully amusing calamity imaginable; for when the prospective bridegroom and his trusty friend arrived in Washington they discovered that they had left the lady's address in Seneca Falls. No racking of brains, or pacing of streets could help them in that most difficult

city. John Thomas took the first train possible back home to get the address. When finally after hours of delay the two men appeared at the prospective bride's home the lady would not be wed, at least not then. Later on, however, she relented and in the Hamilton Childs Seneca Falls Directory of 1894-5 we find the following: — "Jacob Cain, b. 1844 in Penn., w. Alice May, upholsterer, carpet layer, piano mover, owns residence 17 Troy St. cor. John, was a soldier in Penn.'s reserves in Civil War." The information of the directory seems accurate in the most essential details. However, I am inclined to believe that Jacob Cain was born in slavery below the Mason and Dixon line, and that he had only a temporary home in the nameless so-called birth-place in Pennsylvania. The directory notice is a boon to those interested in the outcome of the wedding episode and we can feel a sense of joy that Jacob finally had a wife, that her name was Alice May, and that he owned and probably lived in his home on Troy St., corner of John.

With the conclusion of information about Jacob Cain come a few last words about John Thomas. He too was noticed in the Childs Directory of 1894-5, and his wife is given as Mary C. Their residence was 142 State Street . Their daughter was Emma and I think that she finally married and had a daughter Blanche Belle. Last fall I saw a notice in the Seneca County Press of unclaimed accounts of the Seneca Falls Savings Bank, dated September 23, 1942. The last account thus advertised was: "Emma Thomas or Blanche Belle Paterson, Willard, New York." Thus the name and possibly some of the family of honest John Thomas are still in evidence in this region.

Another negro of somewhat picturesque type graced our village during this period of the early 90's. I used the word graced advisedly, for the man I refer to was Frank, the light-colored negro brought to this town by Mrs. James Gould for a general helper for her lake home, Thistlewood. Frank was of frail build, active, and a well trained house servant, probably about thirty or thirty-five years old. At that time the Goulds had a large sail boat called the Lady Mary and Frank was cook and waiter when short cruises kept the family and their friends out for a meal or two. Always suitably attired for whatever task he might be performing at the moment, quick to see and get, he was valuable help at a lake home. He was, however, somewhat tempermental and finally after a year or two drifted from the Gould family to the Rumsey family. There he acted as a special help for Mr. John A. Rumsey during his last days. One of my very vivid memories of Frank — I have never heard his last name — was seeing him sitting by the side of Mr. Rumsey in an open barouche as they were slowly driven up Cayuga Street one summer morning. I can see yet in my mind's eye, the handsome elderly man, faultlessly dressed, in the shining carriage with a span of fine horse, and the negro Frank in a white suit sitting by his side carefully shielding his ailing master from the sun with a white umbrella. Frank was more a bird of passage than a resident in our village, but he had a personality that lingers in our memory.

Contemporary with the foregoing colored people was the Martin family, a group of perfectly black negroes consisting of a father, John; Ophelia his wife, a good cook, and fat and hearty in appearance; two or three daughters and one son George, the hero of this tale. In our generation George Martin was the first colored boy to attend school. He was a thoroughly companionable youth and joined easily in the studies and games, and expeditions of my brothers and their friends. To his schoolmates George Martin occupied a somewhat anomalous position, for he was naturally a follower and aided and abetted their pranks and took the censure of teachers without flinching. To Professor McLachlan however, he was somewhat of a hero as the first one of his race to take a full high school course and graduate with his class in Mynderse Academy. Those were the days when Booker T. Washington was coming into notice because of his work at Tuskeegee Institute and no doubt Mr. McLachlan had visions of George Martin becoming a great negro leader. Those hopes were not destined to be realized, I regret to say; for after leaving school, George Martin made no effort to go to college, teach school, or follow a profession. He drifted from one small job to another and was finally satisfied with being a waiter in the then new Yates Hotel in Syracuse. Before many years, the entire Martin family had departed from our village and I personally know nothing further about them.

A few years after the turn of the century, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Pomeroy came to Seneca Falls to make their home and with them brought their colored maid, Hester. Hester was a negro woman of the old school type, no doubt born of slave parents, for she had worked for the Pomeroys when they lived in Cincinnati just across the historic river that separated slave state Kentucky from free Ohio. I never heard Hester's last name until somewhat late in life when she married a gallant hero who descended upon our village from no one knew where, named Green Tibbs. Green recognized Hester's sterling worth and promptly won her heart and hand. From that time Hester luxuriated in the name of Mrs. Tibbs among those of her own race, but still remained Hester to the Pomeroy family and their friends. Never until a few years ago did I realize what the term Mrs. means to a negro wife. A southern woman whom I once met in Washington told me with a somewhat apologetic air how she served on a woman's citizens committee in her home town in North Carolina and that there were several colored women on the board. "But," she said, in a self-righteous tone, "we white women never call a colored woman **Mrs!**" I asked her why not, for she had previously told me that these negro women had been teachers and business women before their marriage, and her reply was that it made them feel too important if they were called **Mrs.** I then asked her how a chairman of a meeting avoided using their title when addressing them, and her reply was, "we say 'you'; or the one sitting on this or that seat, etc. We get around it." Because of that conversation I was always rather happy when I heard Hester's friends call her Mrs. Tibbs. Hester's marriage necessitated a home in the village and she and her husband bought a small house on the south side of

the river which gave her much happiness. Green Tibbs died after a few years and then Hester became a widow, a distinction that she fully appreciated.

For many years Hester became more or less the autocrat of her race here in the village. When other families acquired colored help Hester trained the newcomers in the standard of wages, hours of service, privileges, and conduct that she had evolved through the years of happy service with the Pomeroy family. The regulations thus laid down didn't always harmonize with the ideas of the family employing the new help, and then after a shorter time than was expected came the sad parting! But Hester was secure and lived nearly forty years in the Pomeroy service; honest, competent, and loyal to the end. To gently paraphrase the words of the old story, "We'll never see her like again."

During the period of the advent of Green Tibbs in our village another colored family appeared named Person, — a father and mother with three or four pretty children. The father became chef in the Gould Hotel for a time and liked to be called "the chef." In fact he made a very special type of salad dressing he called the chef dressing. His wife was also a good cook and could serve a dainty meal. I think I am right in saying that at one time the family had worked in some fraternity in Ithaca. The children attended the Presbyterian Church and Sunday School, and the family became a valued addition to our village. As time passed, one of the daughters, Ethel, married a fine looking, very black negro, named Harry Jones, who had lived in Auburn, attending high school there, and had taken up the trade of an electrician. He was the proper age to have served in the first World War.

The Jones family finally settled on Green Street in our village and became popular in church, school, and with mothers of young children. New babies were frequent in the Jones home and the older girls early learned their care. The family of eleven children needed many things and their parents wisely let the older girls tend other people's babies after school and over a week-end. The singing of the children and father of the Jones family was their most conspicuous talent and Harry Jones and his little daughters sang themselves into all our hearts. It was with a feeling of real regret that we saw the Jones family leave our village for war work in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a few years ago. for they had made a center for a good class of negro life that we had all hoped might develop as time passed. We hope that they may return when the war is over, for Mrs. Person, the mother of Mrs. Jones still lives here. However, with the departure of the Jones family from our village came the end of an era in a way, for now there are no resident negro families in our village, for the first time in over seventy years.

During the time I have been pondering over this little paper my attention has been arrested by some articles in The Atlantic Monthly regarding the social and economic status of negroes in our country after the close of this war. These articles were written by educated negros, and reveal a sense of resentment at the race dis-

crimination exercised in this country especially in the south. That such injustices exist there is no doubt, but that uprisings of a violent nature by bands of colored men is the cure for such a situation seems unlikely. The spirit of fairness and brotherhood that exists in the life of small communities seems one solution of that problem. For nearly seventy-five years, negro families have lived in this village on terms of perfect equality as to religious, educational, and civic privileges with the white citizens. So far as I know there have been no conspicuously unpleasant relations between the black and white citizens during that period. Perhaps a solution of the negro social and civic problem in the south can be solved by more of that race coming to small villages in the north. Towns like ours could use more domestic help and if a negro center of ten or twenty families could establish itself in a natural way one of our living problems as well as theirs could be solved.

The Partridge Homestead

by

MRS. ADELAIDE C. PARTRIDGE GUION

(This paper was presented by her daughter, Mrs. Garnsey on February 15, 1938.)

The Partridge Homestead in Cayuga Street was built in the year 1837, when my Father, Erastus Partridge, moved here with his family from Cayuga. The family consisted at that time of Mrs. Partridge and six children — one daughter having died and one small son having met a tragic death when the stage coach horses became frightened on the Cayuga hill and plunged down the road, ran over the child as he was crossing the street. I, the ninth child was born in the Homestead in 1840 and DeLancey followed four years later.

My Father intended to build a brick house, material for which was being hauled, when business took him, by stage, to New York City. While on this slow trip, he noticed some Colonial houses along the route and on the banks of the Hudson which so pleased him that he made some rough pencil sketches and on his return home, consulted with a builder — Morris by name — as to whether a similar house could be built from these little sketches. Mr. Morris being willing to undertake the work, the house was started, the brick being used as an interlining with the wood outside. No contract was made, the building being done by day's work.

The house was not placed in the middle of the lot because of a small elm tree which my Father did not wish to have disturbed. That elm tree still grows, very near the south side of the house. Later, additional land was purchased from the neighbor on the north, thus adjusting the house to the center of the lot. The trees in front, most of which are still standing, were planted several years after the house was finished. It was necessary to protect them with wooden frames from cows, pigs, etc. which were allowed at that time to roam the streets of the very small village of Seneca Falls. For this reason fences were very desirable. The substantial one in front of the house, shown in a picture, in my possession, taken in 1873, was removed years ago. The half circle walk, leading to the front door from the north and south gates, also the wood and well house with double arched doors, partly shown in the picture, are things of the past.

A few ornamental and many fruit trees were planted, and on the south side were currant, berry and all kinds of bushes; then came the vegetable garden, then the barn, with a yard, where the horse and cow were kept. Lawn-mowers were still unknown and grass about the house was left to grow until a suitable length for hay, when it was scythed, dried and stored for use.

Only the north side of the house was finished when the family took possession, later the two large parlors on the south side were completed when, as a house warming, my Mother gave one of the

first large parties ever given in the village. The ill-smelling lamps used in those days did not afford a very brilliant illumination for a party, but the rows of candles placed in tin sockets over doors and windows were pronounced a great success. A man with a pair of snuffers was employed to walk about and watch candles and snuff them when necessary. The invitations were quite general, but a number of people were necessarily omitted which caused one uninvited individual to say to a favorite old lady; "How could you say your prayers after spending an evening at such a mixed party as that one last night?" The gentle reply was: "When I went home from the party, I fell on my knees and thanked my Lord for permitting me to spend such a pleasant evening with so many of my friends."

In those days, it was common sight to see two or three squaws, and sometimes Indians, sitting on the ground in front of the house. Often a squaw, with papoose strapped on her back, would walk through the house, go to the kitchen and make it understood that she wanted bread, eggs, and butter. These she would cook together in her far from clean kettle. After she ate a portion, she would take the rest with her. This I well remember; also, once when I was a very small girl and was playing on the piazza with my doll, a squaw came to me and took a piece of bright colored cloth away from me. In a few weeks time the squaw came again, bringing to me a very pretty bead bag, lined with the bright cloth she had taken from me. These squaws were very stolid, seldom spoke and were very untidy. They seemed to be harmless but it was always a relief when they moved on.

Quite an acquisition to the house and one which gave joy to all the small boys in the neighborhood, was a long thin bath tub with a very crude shower and tank overhead. This was installed in a room back of the kitchen. A hand pump forced water from cistern to tank, then, by pulling a chain, one could deluge himself with the cold cistern water!

After the death of Mr. Partridge in 1873, and of Mrs. Partridge in 1881, the Homestead became the property of their eldest daughter, Mrs. Cook, and at her death in 1911, her daughter, Mrs. Waldo G. Morse inherited the property.

(Ed. Note: This property is now in the possession of the Seneca Falls Union Free School District, and is used to house the offices of the Board of Education and as a Homemaking Center for the students of Mynderse Academy.)

The Swaby Homestead

by

MISS ANNE SWABY

1918

The story of the coming of the Swaby family to Seneca Falls has been given to the Historical Society in a previous paper, but it has now been requested that a history be given of the family home situated on the east side of Cayuga Street within one house of the Auburn Road. It has now become one of the historic residences of our town.

My father, Mr. Frederick J. Swaby visited Seneca Falls as early as 1828, also in 1830, and in 1832. He said this place was then covered with wood, which was eventually cleared, and what is now our dining room and kitchen or the center of the house was a small house with a dark attic, and was occupied as a residence by Mr. Lawrence VanCleef, and the late Mr. William Van Cleef, father of the present Mr. William Van Cleef who is living a short distance north on the Auburn Road remembered having lived here when a small boy and saw many of the trees cut down.

When we were repairing our dining room in 1905, we found the original clapboards on the west side painted red. These we left on. In 1834, Col. Wilhelmus Mynderse built the front, intending it for a residence himself, but he died in 1838, never having occupied it. The little parlor on the north side with its Franklin Stove was to have been his office, and the adjoining room, his bedroom, having then a single door between. Since 1850, there have been double doors. Otherwise, this part is just the same. The same is true of the hall woodwork and the drawing room, except the mantelpiece which was replaced in 1862, by the present one and the original one is now in our dining room. The front door, glass and iron work about it, are just the same. There was a square portico with a railing around the top, also below with a seat at each side and a stone step. The present piazza was built in 1850.

Mr. Samuel Bayard purchased the place in 1837, and built the rear. This consisted of a kitchen and five bedrooms. About thirty feet of this was cut off and made into a tenant house a few years ago. It is now on Pine Street.

The original house with this thirty extra feet was purchased by my father, Mr. Frederick John Swaby on June 16, 1845. He raised the roof over the dining room or original house occupied by Mr. Lawrence Van Cleef. My father came here to live April 1, 1846, bringing my mother as a bride December 1846.

Mr. Bayard planted the pine trees, laid out serpentine walks of gravel all through the grounds, erected grape arbors, one on each side of the yard, planted a Hawthorn hedge in front, and a circle of Box-wood surrounding a flower bed between the entrance from the front gate, which had two large square posts, and a lattice gate always painted white, and the front door. In 1862, the gravel walks

were filled in and the arbors taken down, and the hedges, after fulfilling their mission for almost seventy years were consigned to the flames in 1904 when the present stone pavement was laid.

Memoirs of Jason Smith

Preface

Tyre,

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1868.

Through the blessings of a kind Providence I am permitted to enter on a new year. Although in my 73rd year, I am hale both in mind and body, for which I am truly thankful to my Maker and Preserver for his protecting care over me.

This day I commence a task which I have long deferred for the want of time and opportunity, that of writing the memoirs of my life. I write it for the benefit and amusement of my posterity, not thinking that it will ever be put in print, although I believe it would make a book far more useful and entertaining than thousands of others which are thrown on the public. I have often said that the world has advanced more in arts and sciences and improvements of every kind during my natural life than it had for the last two centuries.

I enter on this new year under peculiar circumstances. My dear companion is on a bed of languishing and according to all human probability her probationary season is short.

Yesterday my duties as Justice of the Peace and Justice of Sessions terminated. This is the first time I have ever been clear of office since I came of age. I have held some office every year, either civil or military, and sometimes three of four at a time. My friends say I must be re-elected next spring by an increased majority. They are indignant that I was thrust aside last spring so unceremoniously by a few scheming politicians to make room for a young man aspirant who thought an Esq. at the end of his name would be a pleasing appendage. Forty years ago today I first entered on the duties of the office of Justice of the Peace, having been elected at the fall election by the voters of the old town of Junius, then comprising the present towns of Junius, Waterloo, Seneca Falls, and Tyre, and have held office with but few exceptions ever since.

I feel a strong attachment for the inhabitants of this town and an ardent desire for their welfare. I have resided within its limits ever since my childhood. I have suffered sickness, privations, and every hardship incident to new settlements. I have been a victim to savage ferocity and murder. I have lent my feeble aid in subduing the rugged forests and converting them into fertile fields. I have exposed my life in fighting the battles of my country to maintain her injured rights; and now I feel a strong desire to spend the remainder of my days, be they many or few, on this farm where every object I come in contact with brings to mind some pleasing recollections of scenes which transpired in my youthful and happier days; and I hope it will remain in the family until the remotest generations.

Saturday, Jan. 25, 1868.

At 4:30 o'clock p.m. my poor wife departed this life. A more extended notice will be found in its appropriate place.

My vital organs are perfectly sound. I intend to be temperate in all things, observe the strictest rules of health, and hope to become a centenarian if it be God's will.

Teach us, oh Lord, how frail is man!
And kindly lengthen out our span,
Till a wise care of piety
Fits us to die and dwell with Thee.
—Watts

March 10, 1868.

Our annual town meeting was held and an allusion was made to it above. I will make a passing remark. On the seventh day of March at the Republican caucus I was unanimously nominated Justice of the Peace by acclamation: but the Democratic or Rebel party being in the ascendancy, I was defeated. Our Supervisor was defeated by fifteen majority, while I lost my election by only four majority.

March 1, 1872.

Appointed Notary Public. Served two years.

March 10, 1874.

Elected Justice of the Peace to fill vacancy.

March 14, 1876.

Elected Justice of the Peace for full term. Time expires on December 31, 1880.

December, 1873.

Appointed Postmaster at Tyre. Entered on the duties of office January 1, 1874, served to April 1, 1877, when I resigned.

CHAPTER I

I was born in the town of Bristol, County of Addison and State of Vermont, Wednesday morning, October 7, 1795. My father was born in Sandisfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, September 16, 1758. He served three years in the Continental Army, Massa. Line, in the war of the Revolution, and was honorably discharged. He drew a pension of $8.00 per month up to the time of his death, the pension commencing May 13, 1818, according to an act of Congress passed March 18, 1818. He left no record of his father's family, but from what I have heard him say, and from some old manuscripts, I have been able to gather the following facts: His father, Joshua Smith, died in Sandisfield, July 19, 1771. His mother's name previous to her marriage was Mary Snow. She descended in a direct line from passengers on the Mayflower. My grandparents were of English descent, and from the Puritan stock of New England.

My father, Asa Smith, had four brothers and three sisters. His oldest brother, Herman, settled near Ithaca, New York. One of his

sons, Horace, was here over forty-years ago. His oldest sister Eunice married Elisha Parks. I have seen two or three of her sons. They moved west a long time ago. His sister Lydia married a man named Wilcox. She had a son named William, Jr., a Presbyterian minister located at Otisco, N. Y. I was in his house in 1817. He afterward removed to Chautauqua County. Since then I have heard nothing from him. His sister, Mary, married a Mr. Lee whom I never saw. His brother, John, I know nothing about. His brother William was born September 19, 1760. The cause of his death was as follows: He had been to a neighbor's house and returned home across the fields he had to pass through an old girdling. The wind was blowing hard, which detached a branch from a dry tree and struck him on the head. Although the blow was not sufficient to cause death, he was stunned by the shock, and his face being plunged in the deep snow, he suffocated. My father's youngest brother, David, was born February 11, 1793, and settled at Sacketts Harbor, N. Y. I was at his house in 1829.

At the termination of the Revolutionary War, and while still a single man, my father immigrated to Vermont, then known as the New Hampshire grants. The first purchase he made was on Grand Isle in what was known as South New Rutland county. The deed, bearing the date of November 14, 1783, was executed by Samuel Allen, brother of Ethan Allen of Revolutionary War memory.

My mother, Margaret Traver, was of German origin. She was born in Stornabie township, Albany County, N. Y., September 9, 1765. Her father, Nicholas Traver, was born in Germany. They talked German in the family as long as she remained at home. He was a man of good learning in his own language. He was a practical millright, having built a mill of his own. He had a large tract of land and his location must have been a pleasant one situated somewhere on the bank of the North river somewhere above Cohoes Falls. I have often heard my mother say she could hear the roar of the falls when the wind was in the right direction. His mill must have been on some tributary that emptied into the North river. The bottom land, or valley next to the river, was heavily timbered with beech, maple, ash, elm, etc. Further back was a terrace or ledge while the table land was covered with pine, wintergreen, hazel-nut, whortleberry, and other shrubbery. He was in a prosperous condition up to when the war broke out. Although too old to bear arms, his sympathies were with the Torries. He thought it morally wrong to bear arms against a rightful sovereign. He was persecuted by the Whigs, and obliged to sell out at a sacrifice and remove to the wilds of Vermont. There my mother and father became acquainted and were married in the infant village of Vergennes on February 13, 1788. As that was the first marriage solemnized in that place, the young bloods thought it would be appropriate to have a protracted spree in honor of the event, and therefore, kept up their dancing and merriment for three days in succession.

My father had worked as a journey-man carpenter in the founding of the village of Vergennes; but after his marriage he sold out

his possessions on Grand Isle and bought twenty acres within three-fourths of a mile of that village, where he resided until after the birth of his second child. Then he sold out and bought a farm in Bristol Hollow, to which they moved in March, 1791. This must have been a lovely place at that early period, situated in a narrow valley running north and south where the rays of the sun could not reach us until after it was an hour high in the morning and the same at night; inaccessible and uninhabitable mountains on either side. The nearest neighbor on the north was Elijah Thomas, and the nearest on the south was Oliver Eastman.

1800, — This was the first year that I recollect anything distinctly, although many events might have occurred which I have mixed with other periods, one of which I will here relate, although it is trifling. Our family had increased so as to render it necessary to have more room. My father, therefore, built an addition to his log house and cut a door through into the new part, and in nailing on one of the wooden hinges, he hurt his thumb, leaving some blood on the door hinge, which shocked my tender feelings and left a lasting impression on my infant mind.

1801. This year my father built a small framed barn which was standing in 1864 when I made my last visit to that place. This year Uncle Caleb and Aunt Woodworth came to our house and gave a glowing account of the fine country in western New York, where he had bought a holder's right of 600 acres, and persuaded him to sell out and buy 100 acres of it, move on and settle and thereby pave the way in advance of him.

1802. My dear little brother Ira died, May 16th, being a little over two years old. This was a severe shock to my tender feelings. I thought him the sweetest and nicest child I ever saw.

The forepart of this year my father sold his farm in Bristol Hollow prepartory to going west. In this he was unfortunate, it being so soon after the Revolutionary War, the country was poor: there was little money in circulation. There were no banks in the country. The people who suffered severely by the failure of the Continental Currency, had a great dislike for paper money. Business was mostly by barter. There was a man by the name of Gersham Hall who carried on quite an extensive iron manufactory for those days at Bristol Village. In 1864 his old forge was still standing with blackened walls of boards, but the roof had fallen in and presented a desolate appearance. My father sold out to him and took his pay in axes, hoes, augers, chisles, nails, etc. The edged tools were worthless, he having used steel of his own manufacture, which was rotten and brittle and would not hold an edge. The nails were the first cut by machine brought from Boston, but the heading was done by a hand machine. Previous to that time all nails were wrought iron shingle nails. Every shingle had to be bored with a gimlet to prevent splitting.

On Feb. 1st of that year my brother William was born. He died in infancy. I had four sisters older than myself and one younger, as

follows: Eunice, Lydia, Sally, Nancy, and Harriet. After we came west, Asa, Margaret, and Rebecca were born.

Soon after the death of my brother Ira, we moved into the log house of Uncle David Kellogg in the town of Starksborough, three miles north, which the Kelloggs had vacated to occupy their new frame house. The following June my father set out alone for the western wilderness with a yoke of oxen and a cart with some provisions for himself and food for his team, and some other articles among which were a set of heavy drag teeth and a caldron kettle, both of which are still on the farm. We passed a gloomy summer with no way of communicating by letter, and we heard nothing from him until he returned the following December. He had cleared three acres of land, sown it to wheat and built a comfortable log house. He sold his cart and oxen, got the loan of a horse from Uncle Gersham Woodworth, who was living in Aurelius, Cayuga County, and rode home on horseback. He afterwards brought a mate to him and made out a team.

1803. We left our temporary home at Uncle Kellogg's about the ninth of February and went to Uncle Traver's at Waltham, which was sixteen miles on our way. We intended to have started in January, had the sleighing been sufficient. We stayed until the second day of March when a snow fell which was thought to be sufficient for our purpose. Uncle Ichabod Cook went with his team and Uncle Traver sent Richard Thomas with his team. The arrangement was to go as far as Uncle Caleb Woodworth's in Mayfield, Montgomery Co., N. Y. Then the two teams were to return, and Uncle Woodworth was to take us through. The sleighing was tolerably good when we first started. We reached Lake Champlain and drove twenty miles on the ice, which was first rate, leaving the lake at what is now Whitehall. Before we had proceeded far from there the sleighing grew poor and before we reached Mayfield the roads were nearly bare. We exchanged our sleigh with Uncle Caleb for an old wagon at a sacrifice, he being in the habit of taking advantage of other people's necessities, although he professed better things. The wagon needed repairing. The tires were of hoop, and the first of the kind I had ever seen. The services of a blacksmith were called into requisition. He was ignorant of that branch of business. He scolded and used language more boisterous than moral. After threats, remonstrances, and persuasions from his employer, he succeeded in getting it on after a fashion. It was at this place I saw the first fanning mill, which had been but recently built and put in operation.

Uncle Caleb Woodworth with two teams and one of his boys came on with the intention of bringing us as far as Uncle Gersham Woodworth's. But on reaching Fonda on the banks of the Mohawk River, the roads being hard, and he caring for no one's welfare but his own, refused to go any further. The goods were stored in an out-building, and he, being actuated by a selfish and avaricious disposition, claimed payment for his services to the utmost farthing. This left my father with only nine dollars in money. Our situation

was truly deplorable, left among strangers, with scanty means, a jaded team and a long and muddy road before us.

We, however, loaded on such things as we most needed and as many as we could carry conveniently. We all had to proceed on foot, except my mother, who drove the team. She was possessed of extra-ordinary energy and perseverance. She would often cry out, "Bear up, old blacks! Don't give out here in the mud." As luck would have it, a man on horseback who was coming to this country, overtook us. My father sent word by him to Uncle Gersham informing him of our situation. He was of noble disposition far superior to that of his brother, Caleb, and he came on with a noble span of greys and met us at Onondaga Hollow. He went on and got the goods which were left, and after a long and tedious journey of a month, which we had consumed in travelling 275 miles, we arrived safe at his house. We stayed there until father and Uncle Gersham's boys came over and built a chimney on the house which he built the fall before. On the 12th day of April we left for our new home. Teams conveyed us to Cayuga Lake at East Cayuga. I shall never forgot the impression made upon me by my first view of that beautiful sheet of water and the long bridge across it. On rising the high ground and looking down on the water my childish imagination fancied that it stood up edgewise — that the water was the sky, and the bridge a representation of Jacob's ladder, and the land on the other side was the upper world. We had previously engaged a boat which conveyed us across the lake and up the Seneca outlet to Dumont's landing, where teams from this neighborhood conveyed us to the farm where I now reside.

We fancied our troubles were nearly at and end, but in this we were mistaken. Set down in an almost unbroken forest filled with fierce savages and prowling beasts of prey, an old Indian trail ran directly past the house, and Indians of both sexes could be seen almost daily passing. The males usually carried nothing but their guns, the squaws with a papoose on their backs lashed to a piece of wood or bark, or a huge basket filled with trumpery suspended by a strip across her forehead. We were greatly annoyed by their peering in at the door or windows and begging for whiskey, or tobacco, milk, or other articles of food or drink. The wild beasts would howl around our dwelling, making night hideous and rendering it almost impossible to keep sheep, pigs, or poultry. We had a sow which we bought on the other side of the lake and brought over. She was attacked by a bear who ate a piece out of her shoulder, but was frightened away before he had time to finish his work. She survived and raised a litter of pigs which were attacked by a bear the next year and badly scratched and lacerated, but escaped alive. The Indians were mostly peaceable and friendly, but a sad event occurred in the fall, for which see description elsewhere. (The murder of Ezekiel Crane by Indian John).

December 24th saw an addition to the family by way of a pair of twins which were named after our parents, Asa and Margaret.

1804. Margaret died January 5th, and was buried in the grave-

yard south of here, near Jacob Best's. Uncle Traver gave a lot for burying ground above the cobblestone schoolhouse.

This winter Moses Marsh came into our house with his family to live until he could build one of his own. This was a hard and gloomy winter. My father had to go back to Vermont to receive a payment, — not of money, but of property consisting of a yoke chain and sled, several kegs of nails, axes, hoes, etc. My father agreed with Mr. Marsh to attend to the wants of the family, keep us in wood, milling, etc. But he violated this promise. I had to draw up wood on my handsled. And he, neglecting to get milling done, we had to live on broiled corn; and when that was gone we tried boiled wheat, but that was wretched eating. There was no excuse for Mr. Marsh. The old Skoyase Mill was in successful operation at South Waterloo, also Mynderse Mill was in successful operation at Seneca Falls, which had been started in 1796. We had constructed a snug log stable in which we kept the only cow we had, but they wanted it for their horses and so turned her out. She got poor and finally mired in the mud and died.

In the spring of 1804, a sufficient number of inhabitants having settled in the neighborhood, they decided to get up a school. We had no school law at that time, none being passed until 1815. They used to manage in this way: The people would get together and constitute themselves into a school district, choose their trustees, get up a log shanty which answered as an apology for a schoolhouse, then start what they called a subscription. This was a writing in which they bound themselves to send one or more scholars and pay generally from seventy-five cents to one dollar a piece to the teacher for three months. If they sent fewer than they subscribed for, then they had to pay the subscription anyway; and if they sent more, the teacher would make out a rate bill for the excess in same proportion. In this district they built their schoolhouse a little south of our log house on a disputed strip of land which we had possession of. They completed their schoolhouse and hired Miss Nancy Osman, a girl Moses Marsh brought up, who taught the first school in Tyre in the summer of 1804, which school I attended.

1805. This year Uncle Caleb Woodworth moved into this place. Having plenty of money and possessing an enterprising spirit he gave a new impetus to the settlers. He brought with him the first bank bills I ever saw except the old Continental currency, one of which I recollect distinctly, — a five dollar bill on the bank of Albany, having in vignette a picture of five silver dollars lapped on the other. His son, Caleb, brought and used the first grain cradle I ever saw. This spring he built his frame barn — the first in town. I was at the raising, being then in my tenth year. My father gave me a stint to hoe, five rows of corn before I went to the raising, which I did with alacrity. Uncle Caleb went extensively into the clearing of new lands. We should now look with regret on the wanton destruction of timber. Splendid whitewoods and oaks from two to four feet in diameter and sixty feet to the first limbs,

were cut down and consigned to the flames. The pioneer emigrants were great choppers. It was quite a business chopping by the job. The common price for chopping was five dollars per acre, and the rule was to leave three trees standing on an acre.

Uncle Caleb Woodworth and Aunt Rebecca were Baptists, and so were my father and mother. They used to meet on the Sabbath alternately at our house and theirs for exhortation and prayer. This formed the nucleus of a Baptist Church which was organized that year, Elder Dan Ralph being the first preacher. The first person baptized was Mrs. Agnes Crane, wife of Stephen Crane. Among the first also was Mrs. Esther Winans.

1807. My grandfather Traver died, and was the first person buried in the graveyard on the hill. My sister, Rebecca, was born August 17th.

I have omitted heretofore to give the names of my mother's brothers and sisters. She had a half brother by the name of Ichabod Cook; Rebecca, who married Caleb Woodworth; Phebe, who married his brother Gersham; Anna, who married James Blakeslee; Sally, who married David Kellogg; and Nicholas, who married Rebecca Thomas.

Peaches were almost spontaneous. The trees would bear in three years from the stone. There was no such thing as failure of the crop. I believe it was owing to the native forests which were only partially cut away, and which protected the orchards from the cold and blighting winds from the north and west. Stephen Crane erected a distillery for manufacturing peach brandy.

Domestic Manufactures. We used to make as much calculation on raising a crop of flax every year as we did of raising grain. The women did most of the pulling and spreading. After it was dressed they would hetchel, card, spin, weave and make it up. Most of our summer clothing and bedding was made from this material. And after the wild beasts and wolves had been driven off so that we could keep sheep, the manufacture of woolen fabrics was added to that of flax. About this time a fulling mill and carding machine was started at Seneca Falls. Previous to that the women had to card their own rolls, spin, weave and color their cloth with butternut bark, and full as best they could. Some wore pantaloons made from dressed deerskins.

Our sweeting was all made from the sap of the sugar maple which flourished in great abundance to an immense size — 150 feet high and many of them over three feet in diameter.

The first settlers were poor and had not the time nor the means to dig wells, and were therefore obliged to use surface water, which was the productive cause of disease and death. Moses Marsh used to say that people ought to cook their water. He and several other well-regulated families, ours among the rest, used to boil up a batch of home made beer every week. The principal ingredients were bran, hops, wholesome roots, bark hemlock and spicewood boughs,

or spruce, when we could get it; strain it out and put in some of last week's emptyings.

1810. Uncle Caleb Woodworth died in November. This year we built the north barn and here I got my first insight in framing by the square rule. I liked the business so well that I was determined to follow that as an occupation for life. When Richard and I enlisted in the army we had our names put down as carpenters. When we were driven into Fort Erie the carpenters of the regular army had a shelter fitted up which they used for a shop. They had collected some lumber and materials. Lieutenant Roosevelt wanted a temporary table made to use in his markee. He went to that shop for materials and the privilege of our making it there. The foreman refused to grant the request unless he would get an order from Major McRee, the chief engineer. He got the order and we went to work. We had barely commenced when the British made an attack on the fort. An eighteen pound cannon ball came crashing through the shop, making the splinters fly. Richard declared he would not stay there. We had to fly to arms, but after a lull the next day we went back and finished the table.

(An important dissertation. The young ladies of that period were a striking contrast to the flimsey things of the present day. They suffered their forms to develop according to nature, not pinching themselves with corsets, or reading novels until a late hour at night and striving to be pale. They were red-cheeked, robust, and healthy, industrious and frugal, not ashamed to ply their hand to the distaff or wrestle with pots and kettles. The young man who was so fortunate as to secure one of them for a wife got a valuable prize.)

Now the cloud of war began to lower. In the month of September a comet or blazing star as it was called, appeared in the northwest, and remained there three months. Some people said it was an omen of a war that would last three years. It turned out so, but whether the comet had anything to do with it, I cannot say.

1812. This year war actually began. In the spring there was a call for volunteers to serve one year and defend the Niagara frontier. Some men went from our neighborhood, enlisting under Capt. Terry of Romulus.

1813. This spring I set out the North orchard. After harvest I went with Richard Thomas to work on the long bridge.

On the tenth of September Perry achieved his famous victory on Lake Erie. Late that fall another great blunder was committed by the war department. They withdrew all the efficient troops from the Niagara frontier, leaving a few unreliable militia who skedaddled at the first appearance of a well organized British force. The British captured Fort Niagara, plundered all the military stores on the frontier, burned Buffalo, and committed many other depredations. This was about the holidays. There was an extra alarm through here. Every man turned out who had any patriotism, whether he was liable to do military duty or not. I was not old

enough to be enrolled until a short time before the alarm, but I took my shot gun with what powder I had, and moulds to cast bullets to fit the horn, and went with the rest. Elijah Chalker's son went as far as Waterloo and then suddenly became very lame. He beset Capt. Parker to let him go until the Captain's patience was exhausted and he finally exclaimed, "Go home and take care of your babies. You are such a coward you would not be good for any thing if you went." We went that day as far as Geneva. The citizens had poured in from every direction, a great many from Cayuga County. Every public house was filled to overflowing. We got into a tavern at the south end of the village and occupied the bar room. There were no chairs or benches in the room nor conveniences for sleeping. And if there had been we could not have slept, as there were among the number a set of rowdies who trained all night. They would perform what they called a war dance. They would form a ring in the middle of the floor, take hold of hands and circle round and round. They would get an unsophisticated fellow in the ring, then sway back and forth and prostrate him on the floor, raising war whoops and making a horrible din. All the way he could get out was to treat liberally. There was a tall writing desk in one corner under which I crawled and tried to get a little sleep. But they would haul me out occasionally and hustle me around the room. The officers who slept in the room above us would come down occasionally and try to still them. The boys would promise to be very quiet but as soon as their superiors left they went at it again.

William Watts Folwell

by

REV. ROBERT D. MERRILL

In the Post-Standard of November 22nd, 1946, there appeared an item which told of a bequest that had come to Hobart College, of Geneva, N. Y. This bequest had come from the estate of Dr. Folwell, an alumnus of the college, and the first President of the University of Minnesota. The gift of $40,000 has been applied to the purchase of a house on Main Street, Geneva, to be used as a residential house for William Smith College. This house is to bear the name of the giver of the bequest.

Of what particular interest is all this to the Historical Society of Seneca Falls? Dr. Folwell had no direct connection at all with this place, and, indeed, his autobiography, kindly loaned by Cyrus Garnsey, mentions this village only once, and that in a most casual way.

The answer is that our interest is not confined strictly to this village, but includes, to some extent at least, the whole county. In the book just mentioned Dr. Folwell refers to the "Seneca County Historical Society", asking in one of his letters if that organization is still in existence. The same question is in my mind now; I know of no such society at present, and if there is none, it is all the more natural and right that our interest go out to matters of more than mere local interest. Perhaps it is not too ambitious in us to include in our scope matters that have to do with this whole county. And so it is fitting that we consider the life and work of one whose centers of interest in his early life were Romulus, or Kendaia, and Ovid, — one who became what has been termed "A Pioneer of Culture."

His birthplace and childhood home was located at Romulus, on a farm situated on or near the Sullivan trail. Here he was born in 1833. In this connection it is of interest to see that a foot-note makes the common mistake of stating that the Sullivan Expedition was made in retaliation for the Cherry Valley massacre. I have found this same statement in a recent book supposed to be authoritative. As a simple matter of fact, the Sullivan Expedition was undertaken to cut off the food supplies of the British, for the Indians of this region were supplying the enemy with food.

The Folwell farm was some two miles to the west of the village of Romulus, its land sloping down toward Seneca Lake. The house was a simple one, white, with one main room and two more small ones in a lean-to. Upstairs there were three rooms. The way of living that is pictured is of value as well as of interest, for it shows how people lived a century ago in this part of the county, as well as in other sections.

There was the old, regulation brick oven for the heavier baking. Outdoors, however, there was another oven together with a smoke house and a leach tub for soap; here the kettle used for the

work swung on a pole. A fence surrounded these objects as well as the house, the main farm being outside. There was a low cellar, cool and dark, containing among other things a pork barrel and a second barrel which contained at first cider and finally — with reduced contents — vinegar.

Furniture was home-made, and was stronger, no doubt, than it was comfortable or ornamental. Later, when the house was enlarged, it was thought a wonderful thing to have a carpet in the living room — a rare luxury. In this connection it is interesting to find that the yarn for the carpet was spun right there: then it was dyed — if you please — at Auburn Prison. The dye must have been wonderful, for its brilliant color never faded, although part of the material was kept for many years.

The farm consisted of 150 acres: there was a barn, a shed, a pig pen — but no chicken house. Strange as this seems to us now, the chickens as well as the geese and turkeys took care of themselves to a large degree, roaming far afield, and doubtless finding shelter in cold weather in the shed. To raise and feed poultry now is no such simple matter: like the men of this day compared to those of a century ago, the poultry of this day compared to the poultry of that day are tender products.

There was a large orchard of many varieties of fruit: William's father was once asked by a neighbor, "What is the use of having so many fruit trees? The boys will only steal the fruit": the calm reply was that enough trees were put out for both the boys and the family.

Beyond the cleared land and the wood lot stretched what seemed to the boy an interminable forest. A road ran north and south — a poor and primitive one we should think it now, hardly more than a lane. Not far away was a valley where there was a pond and a mill: from that pond a creek ran to Seneca Lake. Farther to the south was the Baptist Meeting House — not a Church — not at all: that word was hardly used then for a building.

Two early recollections of the boy are interesting: the first comes from political life: when he was seven there came the wild enthusiasm for "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too", or "Tip and Ty" for short, during the campaign for Harrison and Tyler, the first campaign of such enthusiasm if indeed it does not hold first place in all presidential campaigns. Two years later came the Millerite craze, when so many looked for the end of the world and their own going to glory. The Folwell family looked askance at the Millerite doings, but many others were swept off their feet by the excitement.

At ten years of age the boy had what was for him a quite thrilling experience. His uncle had ridden from Avon for a brief visit, and tempted probably by a high offer made for his horse, sold the animal and was left without means of returning to Avon. William's father was willing to lend a horse, but the question was how to get the animal home again. It was finally decided to have the

boy ride behind to Avon, and then ride back the sixty miles. This was safely accomplished — some stunt for a boy of that age.

In his memoirs he recalls some other items: the house was lighted by candles: the family took satisfaction in the fact that they never used what were known as "sluts" — these being vessels of lard or other fat in which rags were used as wicks: no doubt they gave as much smell and smoke as light. There were no matches for years; the boy was often sent to borrow fire from a neighbor, live coals being carefully carried home from the other house. Lucifer matches came into use some time in the 40's.

As the boy grew older he did the usual boy's work on the place, — carrying the mail some three miles to and from the Post Office; turning the grindstone handle, or the handle of the fanning mill; cutting and carrying wood — almost an endless task; tending the garden, whose vegetables made living fairly abundant. His first school attendance was in the summer, when there was a summer district school held; there were no Public Schools as yet. The different school districts ran themselves, largely, with the help of some public money gained from the sale of land; the remaining funds came from a charge made on parents or guardians of the children attending the school, and fuel was provided from this source. As yet there was no general taxation for school support, and when it was finally suggested and planned there was great opposition on the ground that it was unfair to tax those without children, or with children too old for the local school, for the support of the institution.

The school house and its fitting seem primitive enough. There was a sloping shelf running around three sides of the room and this took the place of desks: a little back of the shelf were benches at which the older children sat — benches without backs. The younger children gathered nearer the center of the room, not far from the stove. There was one rather small blackboard, and this was on hinges at the top so that it could be pulled up out of the way when not in use—and this was apt to be the case most of the time. The main emphasis was on the three R's: there were no real grades. One good feature was the spelling-down, in which young Folwell was apt to appear to good advantage. This was considered rather good fun by the pupils, and it made good spellers.

It may be that the boy did well in his spelling as well as in other school work partly, at least, because of his family background. His grandfather was a man of ability and no little influence: he was a graduate of Brown University, had both his B.A. and M.A., and had been offered a position on the faculty of the University of Penna. He also served a term in the Penna. legislature. He deliberately chose the life of a "country gentleman", rather than any other career. The boy's father was also of some scholarly ability, as well as military experience, and was a Brigadier of Militia, quite generally spoken of as "Gineral". The ancestry was Quaker, but the family then was Baptist. There were books in the home and other reading material — the old "Harpers' Family

Library" (incidentally a set of books found also in my own childhood home), the Bible, of course, a book of Scotch ballads — dear to his mother, especially, who loved to sing them; then there were papers—the N. Y. Weekly Tribune, the Genesee Farmer, the Rural New Yorker, the N. Y. Baptist Register, which later became the Examiner — the paper which Folwell always considered the best of the denominational issues.

The District School of his time Folwell always considered as of little value; he felt that the time spent in it was largely wasted, and that his best education was in his home and later on in private schools and college. If one then wished to go beyond the work of the District School, he had to go to private ones. The first private school to which the boy was sent was located at Nunda, N. Y., where an uncle and aunt lived who would take him into their home. Here was located the "Nunda Literary Institute", where he could get some preparation for the college course which he as well as his parents wished him to have. The trip to Nunda was exciting to the boy: it involved his first ride in a railroad — from Geneva to Rochester. From Rochester he went by packet boat on the Genesee Canal to Mt. Morris; and from here he rode eleven miles in a four-horse stage coach to complete his journey. At the new school he studied, among other subjects, geometry, chemistry, surveying, geology and began Latin — a considerable advance, surely, on the work of the District School. At this "Institute" he was a student for two years, spending his summers, naturally, at the Romulus home.

This was a period of many changes in the life of the communities. Perhaps a few of the older customs should be mentioned — customs some of which were coming to an end. There was the "raising of buildings", an occasion of some social import and no little drinking as well as one of good, hard work. There was the Singing School which was of social as well as vocal significance. There were games of "one ole cat" and "two ole cat"; there were ball games played, not with a ball like the baseballs of today, but one of home make, produced from yarn and a leather cover. There were the two services on Sunday at the Baptist Meeting House one-half hour apart — just a small intermission for refreshments. There were the baptisms, usually in Seneca Lake, located some two miles from the church building, impressive rites to the boy, although later he writes of them as almost barbaric in their simplicity; there were even times in cold weather when ice was broken in order that the baptism could take place. There was little if any regard for Christmas — which was looked on as a Romanist or even pagan feast — and there would have been no attention at all paid to it in the Folwell home were it not for the fact that it was the birthday anniversary of William's father.

The use of liquor was almost universal. Elder Caton, who preached at the Baptist Meeting House, would sometimes stop in his discourse to refresh himself with a small sip before he returned to his thirdly or fourthly. Any caller at a home must be offered

some liquor—the minister most surely of all. Every farm had its two or three barrels of peach brandy, which was thoroughly used. A temperance movement started at about the time that young Folwell went to Nunda, and this was known as the Washingtonian Temperance Movement; Dr. Folwell wrote of it much later as, in his opinion, one of the best temperance movements ever initiated. Lectures were given in various villages and cities, and aroused no little interest and produced some good results.

Up to this time, the clothing and other goods were produced right in the home from materials grown on the place. Now came the opening of the factories, among them the Woolen Mills at Waterloo, which were built and opened in the 40's. Now farmers would take wool to the factory and exchange it for finished cloth. The cloth was taken to a tailor to be cut out, and then the sewing and finishing were done at home, often by "tailoresses", who went from house to house. Overcoats were not used by boys, and William refused to wear one which his parents had made for him: instead, they wore heavy underclothes and suits.

Like other housewives, William's mother would go to the factory and buy a "piece of factory" as it was called — 40 yards long; the material might be linen or cotton. Out of this were cut sheets, pillow cases, underwear, and linings. From flax fiber, grown on the farm, was spun yarn for grain bags and also string.

The tools on the farm, which were for years of a crude, homemade variety, began to be replaced by manufactured ones of far better design and finish. As the years passed, good plows and even harvesters came to take the place of the crude implements of earlier years. These made the farm work less burdensome and more efficient.

After two years at Nunda, William went to Geneva to attend the Geneva Union School. One of his sisters and some cousins joined forces with him, and they rented rooms in the old Geneva Lyceum and set up housekeeping there — most of the food coming from the homes of the young people. Here William began the study of Greek.

It did not take William long to decide that the Geneva Union School was no place for him; the teaching was too poor. So he changed over to a private Latin School in Geneva which he found much more satisfactory.

The next fall, the farm crops were small — almost a failure — and there was no cash for William to go on with his work: in this emergency he was glad to accept an invitation that came to him to go to Middlesex, where some cousins lived, and there teach the District School, as well as tutor a boy cousin who had college work in prospect. He needed little in the way of special preparation for this work, but his father, who held on to some old ideas strongly, insisted that William must have a silk hat to support the dignity of a schoolmaster, and so presented him with one — at the expense of four dollars. As teacher of this school the young man received the princely pay of $56.00 for three months teaching. However, the

experience was of value to him. One restriction made on him was that he could not use the "fiddle" which he had learned to play fairly well; his uncle was a deacon in the Baptist Church and told William that "anybody who could fiddle would dance" — and of course dancing was considered a deadly sin.

In this connection it is of interest to note that no card playing was permitted in the home. William's mother barely tolerated checkers. So one day the boy sneaked off to the haymow with a friend and learned a game of cards there. Later on his mother caught him with three pals playing cards in a bedroom over the woodhouse. Of course, she was much disturbed by this, but the father came to William's rescue and said it was about time to quit the nonsense of forbidding a game which was in itself perfectly innocent. So the boy and his friends were at liberty to play right in the house, — and then found that they cared little for it.

The next step in the education of William was his going as a student to the Ovid Academy — an institution which had been reopened after a few years of non-activity. Here he had thorough training in Greek and other subjects and began the study of German. The second year of his study at Ovid Academy, the family rented the Purdy house in that village and six young people — a brother, two sisters, and some cousins — kept house in it and entered the academy.

When eighteen years of age William learned from a friend of the possibility of free college tuition at Geneva. He had thought little about this particular college, supposing that if it were at all possible he might go to Yale. Moreover, his mother objected to his attending an Episcopal institution. But his father had broader ideas, and thought the Geneva College worth investigating. Until a few years before this time, it had been called Geneva College; but when an endowment of three-thousand dollars a year had come to the college from Trinity Corporation, of New York, the Trustees, after necessary legal steps, changed the name to Hobart Free College, and offered free tuition to some if not all students. This seemed a desirable opportunity: after an interview with a member of the faculty, he was admitted — to his complete surprise, — not as a Freshman but a Sophomore. Whether this means that the standards of the college at that time were not high, or that the young man had made unusual progress in his preparatory work, broken as it had been, may be uncertain. Both tuition and room were free. Meals he took at Smith's Boarding House at a cost of $2.25 a week. Even with these low charges, the money at home was insufficient for his support, so in his Junior year he borrowed $200.00 on his note, which his father endorsed. In addition, later in his course, he did some secretarial work for the president, and also gave private lessons to a boy of well-to-do parents: for this last work he expected to receive a good sum, but was paid just thirteen dollars for fifty hours work. About this time, with a little extra income, he moved from the college room, which was crude and in poor condition, to Smith's Boarding House for both room and meals which he had at the remarkable price of $2.50 a week.

At about the end of the first term of his Senior year, he was asked by the head of the Ovid Academy to substitute for a teacher of Greek and Latin who had been called to a college position. He obtained leave to go temporarily at least, and so took up his work as both student and teacher — keeping up with his college work in addition to his teaching at Ovid. No permanent teacher was found that whole year, so William kept on in this double work up to the end of his senior year at Hobart, having supervision from the college and some advice in his work. It meant a strenuous winter for him — especially as in addition to all this he was giving lessons to his brother at least two hours a day. It is amazing that William not only was able to graduate with his class at Hobart, but did so as Valedictorian. He must have been a first-rate student, surely, and a hard worker. Very modestly he states in his memoirs, "Why in the world the faculty awarded me the valedictory oration I could not then and cannot now explain." But in any event, the teaching was a big help, for from his salary he was able to pay the note that he had given and so graduate free from debt.

He kept on with this teaching at Ovid, the Academy then having the new and somewhat fancy name of Seneca Collegiate Institute. But a little later he returned to Hobart as adjunct professor of Math. For this work he received the vast sum of $400 a year without board. During this period he also began the study of law, and worked hard over Blackstone — with the thought, of course, that he might enter the legal profession. Later on, however, he decided to continue his career as a teacher. His reason for this decision is interesting: he wrote as follows to his mother: "If a lawyer becomes refined, elevated, generally learned and **good** he must become so not by virtue of his profession, but in spite of it. The duties and employments of legal life are not of a nature to make a finished, manly and generous character. The objects of a lawyer are to get money and reputation, neither of which are worthy objects for a man who knows any better."

Possibly we feel that our hero was at this stage of his development rather stiff and dogmatic or even prejudiced in his views. We feel this all the more, perhaps, when we read in another letter to his mother the following: remember, please, that his mother was a Baptist, and critical of Hobart as an Episcopal Institution, "After much reading and thinking I am **firmly** and **thoroughly** convinced that if any church is the true church (and some **one must** be the true church) the Protestant Episcopal Church in America is it." It is often true that at no age is one more sure of matters which to the wisest are open questions than as a young man of the early twenties.

We may be relieved to know at this same time the young man had enough worldliness of spirit to take dancing lessons. But he limited his interest to square dances: he wrote that he considered "round dancing a frivolous, even immoral diversion." Just what he would have thought of some of the modern dances — had he been able to see them — is left to the imagination.

Another bit of enjoyment at this period was found in the revival of his violin playing. But the biggest advance he made was in meeting, when twenty-six years of age, the young woman to whom he became engaged. She was Sarah Heywood, and her home was in Buffalo. The engagement was a long one, for the next year William went abroad for study in Germany and travel especially in Greece. He had decided to specialize in languages, chiefly Greek, and if possible to be a Professor of Philology. No doubt the study abroad and the stay in Greece were excellent preparation for this life work, but they must have been rather hard both for him and especially for the newly engaged young woman.

The remainder of his career we must pass over with the merest mention, for we are most interested in the early part of his life which was spent in this general region. He was abroad a little over one year; and his return was probably hastened by the outbreak of the Civil War. He volunteered for service in that conflict as an engineer, — for he had among his other studies and accomplishments turned to surveying. Now he took additional training, and did valuable work in bridge and road construction and other engineering work during the conflict. He became a major and finally a Lieutenant Colonel. He seems to make no direct mention of his marriage, but that must have taken place during the war — probably in 1864, or possibly one year earlier.

For a time after this he went to work for his father-in-law at Venice, Ohio, where Mr. Heywood, who lived in Buffalo, had a considerable amount of land, a mill, and other interests. In 1868 an opportunity came for a return to the work which he loved, teaching, for Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, invited him to become Professor of Math and Civil Engineering. This invitation he accepted, and enjoyed his life in the village as well as his work at the college. But the work proved to be temporary, for in the summer of 1869 he was invited to become the President of the University of Minnesota.

This sounds like more of a position than it actually was at the time. The university had been opened only two years before, and had received a new charter only the previous year. There was just one building, and that was out of repair — in fact, as Dr. Folwell stated it, in "dreadful condition." It had been used to house a preparatory department before the founding of the full university. He was offered a room or rooms in this building plus a salary of $2,000, but life in the building seemed to him out of the question, so he had to secure a house. This was not the only disappointment: the Board of Regents proved something of a problem, for its members had taken the position that it was their right to make appointments, dismiss teachers and decide other university matters without consulting the President or even informing him of their action. Dr. Folwell had many plans about education which he hoped to put into operation here in a new university and in a new part of the country, but found it next to impossible to carry out many of them. He was in favor of new methods, more in line with German Universities — something of a pioneer in these educational lines.

It is impossible to follow his work in any detail. In all, he spent the last sixty years of his life there — 14 years as President, and most of the remaining years as Professor of Political Economy and Librarian, the last years of all as Professor Emeritus. He lived to the unusual age of 96.

It may be well, however, to note why he ceased to be President at the end of the first 14 years. He had done excellent work, but failed to satisfy some who desired a man of a different type. Their ideal President was one of imposing personality, a pleasing figure, a ready after-dinner speaker, one to attend public gatherings and there "advertise" the college, and secure gifts for it. Dr. Folwell, on the other hand, was primarily a scholar and a teacher, quiet, almost retiring in person. He had unusual executive ability as well as scholarship, but it was of the quiet nature. So after fourteen years of fine service, he offered his resignation as President, which was accepted — with honest appreciation of the work that he had done.

Service that he gave in addition to the main work at the University should be mentioned. He attended the Centennial at Philadelphia as one of the official Minnesota delegates. He was President of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts. He served as one of the Park Commissioners of Minneapolis. He was made Vice President of the American Economic Society. He made addresses at Chautauqua, served on the State Board of Charities, as well as on the Minneapolis Improvement League. He was a member of the Minnesota Historical Society, and served for a time on the Assay Commission of the U. S. At the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893 he acted as one of the judges of educational exhibits, and took a similar position at the Louisiana Purchase Fair at St. Louis in 1904.

At his retirement he had a room at the Library as his own, and continued his deep interest in the university as well as the city. Through the Carnegie Foundation he received the pension of $1,965, so that he had enough for the needs of his simple life.

Perhaps we wonder how out of his never high earnings he was able to make so large a gift to Hobart College. It is clear that he was never able to save any great amount from his salaries.

He remarked once, in his memoirs, that if he had gone into business or the law he might have had a large bank account instead of being a pensioner. But it is plain that the most of his money came to him through his wife, whose father was at least well-to-do. Mr. Heywood, who died in 1883, must have left the bulk of his estate to his daughter, Mrs. Folwell.

Dr. Folwell was by no means idle in the years of his retirement. The public offices that he filled occupied much of his time. In addition he turned historian, and wrote a book entitled "Minnesota, the North Star State": this was in a series of books on state histories published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, the series having the title American Commonwealths. This appeared in 1908. The manuscript submitted was rejected at first on account of its too great

length, so Dr. Folwell had to cut it down somewhat. Later the thought came to him of writing a more complete and extensive history of the state, and on this he spent much of the time of his remaining years. The first volume came out in 1920, the second in 1924, and the third in 1926. He remarks in his Autobiography, "The rate of progress now slowed down on account of 'certain infirmities', so it was not until April, 1929, that the last copy was sent in." It is not to be wondered at that the "rate of progress slowed down", for by 1929 Dr. Folwell was 96 years of age. He died in the fall of that year. The fourth and last volume of the set was brought out a year later.

Mrs. Folwell lived a year and a half after the death of her husband, to her 94th year.

It is so old a statement that it is trite that many of our most able men started their lives on farms. It is, however, a striking and a significant fact. From the farms of all sections of our land such workers — many of them great men — have come. We may take no little satisfaction that some of them have come from this part of the country in which we live, and we may surely include among them this Romulus boy who became a real "pioneer of culture."

The Personal Narrative of Price W. Bailey

I was born on the 18th day of August in the year A.D. 1837. The place of my nativity was Newtown, county of Montgomery in North Wales, I being the third of four sons of a Welsh mother and an English father. Through the early death of my father, my mother was left with but limited means to support a young family of five hearty children. To her credit and the undying affection of those children she did support them; and as much as was possible, had them educated in the denominational school of our native town.

Through the exercise of close frugality by my mother and the industry of her two elder sons, enough was saved to purchase passage tickets to America, which was promptly done. The family sailed from Liverpool on the sailing packet ship, "Columbus", in the latter part of the month of June, 1848, for New York City, at which place we arrived about the seventh day of August, having been at sea six weeks. The trip from New York to Skaneateles, our destined home, was made via Hudson River and Erie Canal to Jordan, New York, thence to Willow Glen, a hamlet one and one quarter miles north of the village of Skaneateles. The time of the trip was seven days.

On arrival at Willow Glen, I, with my brothers William R. and John R. were put to work in the factory of the late Dorastus Kellogg, which was doing a thriving business during the administration of President Zachary Taylor. Willow Glen had, as I recall, but one small grocery store, Watson's, for two hundred inhabitants, no meat market, no Doctor, no Minister. The week's supplies were as a rule, purchased on Saturday evenings at Skaneateles.

All Protestants who wished to attend church started early enough to walk one and one quarter miles, and arrive at the churches by ten thirty o'clock. There were but a few Catholics there. They clubbed together, hired a team and wagon to take them to the one church of that denomination in the City of Auburn, which as I remember, had little more than 11,000 people.

When the services of a doctor were needed in the hamlet, I was called upon to jump out of a warm bed and start on the mile and a quarter trip to get the doctor. But once in all my calls, that I now recall, was I invited to ride with the doctor. That was on a fearfully stormy night, the snow very deep and badly drifted and the wind howling fiercely. I got the impression that the doctor did not wish to make the trip alone.

The six years of my life spent in a woolen factory I look back upon as the dullest period of my whole life. The daily schedule of labor began at five o'clock; breakfast at six-thirty, work again from seven o'clock until twelve noon; begin again at one o'clock and leave off for the day at six-thirty p.m., making a total of seventy-two hours a week. I must have shown some aptitude for the work as I was selected as overseer's assistant of the carding department when but sixteen years of age. I wanted an education. All that

I could obtain was through night school which was only held in the winter terms.

About this time a strong desire to become a naval marine engineer took possession of my mind. I realized that, in order to become such I must be a machinist and draughtsman. So, in 1854, I secured a place and bound myself out to a machinery firm in Auburn, N. Y. to serve for three years. For the first year, I received fifty cents per day of ten hours; second year, I received seventy-five cents per day; and one dollar per day the third year. From this munificent salary I was to board, wash, and clothe myself if I could. I did it. How? I found a family who would board me, wash two shirts, two pairs of socks, one pair of overalls, one overshirt for two dollars per week of seven days. These articles of clothing with a white "dickey" with collar attached comprised my wardrobe for workday and Sunday for the first year of my apprenticeship.

The above inventory takes me back to the "little red school house" at the hamlet, before referred to. I was there taught the rudiments of vocal music by a night school teacher. Being the possessor of a natural tenor voice I became soon a ready reader of written music scores. I first joined a church choir which led me to become a regular attendant for fifty years; thus, with the practice gained in quartet and glee clubs, my voice was developed, but, I state it with regret, it was not cultivated. I sang as the bird sings.

I served my apprenticeship faithfully, doing during the time the hardest work of my life. I lost no time during the three years except an enforced rest from the loss of a portion of one finger, which accident was caused by an overzealous overseer. My term of three years ended in September 1857; being then twenty-one years of age, I made application for the position of third assistant engineer on one of the Atlantic steamships of that time, and received the appointment, but before the sailing day the company failed.

In the year 1856, a Democrat, James Buchanan, was elected President. The following year, 1857, was a year of great distress throughout the nation. There were many causes for the "hard times", some fancied, some more real in their character. Each contributed its part in the destruction of business confidence and the reduction of all commercial commodities to a degree which closed nearly all efforts of production. Plants closed their works because their products could not be disposed of at a profit, not even in many cases at a loss. There was no stable currency as there is now. Nearly all banks were of the "wild cat" order, each issued its own currency. Much was secured by ample collateral; more of it was not so secured. The result of this state of banking was the issue of currency that had no collateral behind it, and the consequent depreciation of all. A bank note that would pass in your home city at full value could not be exchanged in a city or village not twenty miles distant except at a discount of from 2% to 25%, or refused at any rate of discount because it had not been rated in the latest "Detector" which was kept in every business house for its own protection. Meanwhile, a general mass of counterfeit currency and

spurious coin flooded the business of the land; so that all business men became veritable Ishmaelites. About this time, I was thrown out of employment by the failure of the Collins Line. I needed employment and I sought it diligently. All my long tramps on foot, my unpaid rides on trains and steamboats through three states were fruitless. I had to, as a last resort, go home, where I remained through the winter of 1857-8.

In the month of January 1858, I with my two brothers, William R. and David J. conceived an unwise plan to walk on the ice of Skaneateles Lake to a point at which we could get to shore in the hope of getting a shot or two at some wild ducks which we had seen from our window. We started on the hunt as planned, and on reaching the point where we were to start for the shore, the ice gave way under us, letting us into the lake three miles from home and three hundred yards from the shore. The water, as we later learned when fishing for our guns, was twenty-four feet deep. We did not despair; we formed in line with arms on the ice. We would all spring up and come down on it with our combined weight, and break it, push it out of the way and again attack it; this we did many times and at last failed to break it. Then two of us pushed the weakest one out on the ice and told him to go ashore, tear a board from a fence and drag it out to the hole. He did so as quickly as a half frozen boy could, but from his start until his return seemed "an age." At last, the board was laid and with a pull from one and a boost from another a second one was out of the water and then they two pulled me out. The whole incident lasted about half an hour. The run of three miles in frozen clothing was a pleasure compared to the preceeding experience. .

During the latter part of that winter, a vocal quartet was organized, with two objects in view; first, to entertain the lovers of good music in the surrounding villages and cities that had not been favored with so much musical talent as Skaneateles had; second, to try to replenish our depleted purses. Just fancy the wild egotism of a set of boys and the foolhardiness of an uncultured country quartet starting out on such an enterprise in a time of great general distress. Although we had as our advance agent the late Chas. F. Durston who was later Warden of the State Prison at Auburn, N. Y., and still later, Warden of the prison at Sing Sing, N. Y., and although it was an excellent quartet in those days, the enterprise failed. However, it was the means of leading me to Seneca Falls.

I took up my residence here about the 10th day of May, 1858. My first employers were the firm of Silsby, Mynderse, and Shoemaker, proprietors of the celebrated "Island Works". The first work I did was to build a set of machines for making sash and blinds for use in the factory of Powell and Milk. No drawings nor blueprints of the machines were given me to take measurements from or to convey to me any idea of the finished machines. I was shown a pile of castings and forgings which had been wheeled in and thrown on the floor near the lathe which I was to use. I was told to sort them and go on with the work and that if I needed any

information about them, a man by the name of Deming would impart it, and also give me the tools for the separate parts of the machine. I finished the machine, and from the comments of the Supt., Mr. M. R. Clapp, I inferred that my work was satisfactory. Later, I was put at work on the rotary steam fire engines of the Holly patent, and which in later years became known throughout the world. The ones I worked on were the third and fourth of the kind to be made. One was sold to the City of Boston, Mass.; the other, to New York City.

No cash payments were made to the employees of the above firm. There were no pay days; the men were given script orders which were accepted at all the stores and boarding houses in payment for all necessaries at a discount of from 2% to 15% according to the urgency of the needs of the holder. I endured this treatment for about eleven months. I then secured a position in the works of Cowing and Co., the firm consisting of John P. Cowing and John A. Rumsey. This firm paid their help in currency, monthly. As a machinist, I looked upon pump work as a little below me, but the cash payments did away with these notions. I contracted with the firm to build two of their specialties. One was their hand and power Railroad Force Pump, and the other was the Hydraulic Ram. There, through the arrangement of having three machines necessary for building them conveniently grouped, I was enabled to make good wages. I continued at this place and work until the beginning of the Civil War.

From my early childhood and from my early ability to read, I was strongly opposed to human slavery. Before ever seeing America, I had read of its dreadful cruelties and wrongs. Before arriving at the age of eight years, I was an abolitionist and had resolved that whenever and wherever I could do so I would do all that I possibly could in helping to destroy the traffic in human beings. During the Fremont-Buchanan campaign, I sang with spirit and deep earnestness with the Fremont Glee Club and voted for Lincoln. So when the southern states seceeded from the Union, solely on the slavery question, fired on our garrison at Sumter, I was ready to respond to the call of President Lincoln for troops to protect the Capital. I did so promptly. With a vague idea of the future, I, in 1860, joined a company of Zouave Militia of this place. It was organized, drilled and commanded by James H. Ashcroft, whose First Lieutenant was George Murray Guion. I was on intimate and friendly terms with both of these young gentlemen. I had freely given out that I would enlist in and go to war with the first company to be organized here. As the Ashcroft Company seemed likely to be the first to go, I signed his muster roll. After doing this I was so earnestly solicited by the members of the Guion family to lend my aid and influence in and towards the raising of a second company, of which Mr. G. M. Guion, should be the commander and of which I was to be Second Lieutenant, that I consented to do so. I thereupon withdrew from the Ashcroft organization. Subsequent events made my decision in this matter one of supreme satisfaction.

The agreement with the Guions was carried out. Guion was voted in as Captain and I as Second Lieutenant. Our company was sent to the rendezvous at Elmira, N. Y., as was the Ashcroft Co. In the organization of regiments at Elmira, the Guion Co. was designated "A" Company of the 33rd Regiment of N. Y. Volunteers and was mustered in the United States service for a term of two years on May 9, 1861.

The call of the President having been responded to by three or four times that number, the excess troops were held in camps of instruction and drilled in the duties of the soldier. They were taught the manual of arms, marching, and guard duty, and especially in that intangible thing, discipline, which changes the individual into a fighting unit that will respond with alacrity to any and all commands from those placed over him, without questioning for a moment whether the said commands should or should not be obeyed. The 33rd being one of the redundant regiments, was held in Elmira until July 8th; all of this time, two months, studying and practicing in the school of the soldier. On the above date it was ordered to entrain for Washington, D. C. The train was composed of freight cars having rough board seats. We arrived in Washington on July 10th, having been delayed in Baltimore, but not through any opposition of the Baltimorians which some who preceeded us had met with. On our arrival in Washington, the regiment after being fed with bread (not buttered) and cheese and good strong coffee, was ordered into camp at a point about one half mile west of the United States Soldiers Home.

This being a personal narrative, I will henceforth confine it to that character, without attempting to write a history of my company, regiment, or corps, except so far as my services became identified with each. I tried to fulfill the requirements of every position that I was placed in. The 33rd, on the re-organization of the Army, after the disastrous defeat at Bull Run, was attached to the 3rd Brigade of the 2nd Division of the 6th Corps. Ten months from the time I mustered in, I was detached from my company and appointed a Provost Marshall of the Brigade, mounted, and served in this capacity attached to the staff of Brig. General John W. Davidson, during the campaign of McClelland on the Virginia Peninsula. On the arrival of the army at Harrison's on the James River, I was relieved from staff duty to take command of my company because of the illness of my company's officers.

The duties of a Provost Marshall in the field are many and various, although not scheduled in "Regulations", are in fact, those of complete inspection of all troops composing the brigade. He is expected to inspect the arms, clothing, tents, and bedding of the troops once a week, if circumstances permit it to be done. He is empowered to punish the dirty or slovenly dressed soldier, and to reduce to the ranks non-commissioned officers for like offences. He is to inspect the condition of the animals of the brigade, and punish any or all who cruelly treat or neglect animals under their care or management. He is to make daily examination of the roads and

lanes within the brigade limits, and above all other examinations, excepting the guns, is the exacting one of visits to and daily inspection of the cooking of the several company cooks. The frying of fresh meat must not be permitted. This was a common practice that was very difficult to prevent. The Marshall's place while on the march is always in the rear of the troops whether they are advancing or retreating. The reason for this is obvious, to drive up or help along the laggards and the sick ones. The title of this officer was later properly changed to that of Assistant Inspector General, of brigade, division, or corps, in accord with his position.

Soon after General Burnside's important attack on Lee's army posted on the heights of Fredericksburg, in the month of December, 1862, whereat Gen. Francis L. Vinton was wounded while in temporary command of our 3rd Brigade and on whose staff I was acting as Assistant Adjutant General during the short absence of the permanent officer, Gen. Thomas H. Mill was appointed to command the brigade, by whom I was appointed on his staff as Assistant Inspector General of Brigade. I held this position until the term of service of my regiment expired May 9, 1863. I then rejoined my company and was mustered out of service with it at Geneva, N. Y. in June 1863.

On or about the 12th day of July, I received a package from the Adjutant General which contained flattering letters from Major General Sedgwick, Brig. Gen. Albion P. Howe, and Thomas H. Mill addressed to Governor Seymour, recounting my services during the past two years, and requesting the Governor to recommission me as a First Lieutenant as Gen. Mill stated that the vacancy on his staff would be held open until my return. With the above was a very cordial and personal letter urging me to return as quickly as possible after receiving my commission. I presented the batch of letters to Gov. Seymour after being introduced to him by a member of his staff, Gen. J. T. Miller. The Gov. called his Adjutant General, Evans, I think his name was, and asked him to bring a blank commission, signed it, and told him to fill it out for any rank that I desired. The Adj. Gen. then said, facetiously, that on those recommendations, he would be justified in making me a Col. as it was already signed.

On returning to the Gov.'s office to express my thanks for his great kindness and favor, I was amazed to see there with him Major Geo. B. McClelland, the old commander of the Army of the Potomac who had been removed from his command a few weeks previous. I had a few minutes pleasant conversation with him. He expressed much interest in Gen. Mill whom he spoke of as "Beau Mill"; he said they were both Philadelphians and brother West Point graduates.

After being commissioned, I spent a little time with my mother, brother and sister in Skaneateles; my brother was Capt. David J. Bailey. A draft was being made at this time; high prices were offered for men to fill the quotas of many villages and cities; a person who knew that I had a commission in my possession said to me

"Now you can enlist and obtain a considerable sum of money for standing for a certain other person, and when you get the money and share it with me, you can show your commission and be relieved of the annoyance of an enlisted man and at the same time help your town and us." I answered "no" to all of his dishonest sophistry.

I was delayed in New York City and two days in Philade,lphia, visiting a former associate staff officer, Mr. W. H. Pemberton, a brother to Lieutenant Pemberton, the rebel commander who surrendered Vicksburg to Gen. Grant, who I remember as an alert and capable officer.

I reported to Gen. Mill for duty about July 19, 1863, who, as he had been compelled, by necessity, to fill my old place as Assistant Inspector General, at once appointed me to the place of personal aide-de-camp on his staff. I served him in this capacity until the 12th day of May 1864, when I was severely wounded in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House. I was confined in the Lincoln General Hospital for seven weeks before being in condition to be sent home to my wife, who, by the way, I had married on the first day of March, 1864. My wound being of such a character as to prevent my return to the army, I was discharged from the army by the Sec. of War, for disability arising from wounds received in battle.

As I had held many positions in the army which required me to receipt for property belonging to the Government, I was notified on the first of September 1864, that I could not receive my final pay due me until I had satisfied the several departments that I was not indebted to them, and I was ordered to Washington to perform this duty. On the completion of this piece of extra red tape I was formally relieved from all connection with the army and was paid in full.

On the first day of October of the above given year, (1864) I entered the employ of Rumsey and Company, an offshoot of Cowing and Company, as foreman of the machine shops; from the foremanship I was advanced to the position of Supt. of the Works. I held this place at Rumsey and Company's for twenty years. I left this position to accept the position of Vice-President and General Manager of the works of Cowing and Gleason. The title of the firm was, on April 1, 1884, changed to that of Gleason and Bailey. During the time of my management of those works, the firm, in addition to a very large increase of their pump trade, supplied hundreds of towns and cities in the United States, South America, and Australia, with fire fighting apparatus, consisting of hand worked fire engines, hose wagons, and carts, and hook and ladder trucks. From March 1, 1884, to March 12, 1888, I managed the factory. The firm's matters in New York City became so expansive that it seemed quite apparent that my services were needed there. I remained there until February 1, 1891, when on my discovery of a mountain of equally mixed envy and malice there, I left the firm, holding my shares of stock, and returned to Seneca Falls. Again I joined Rumsey and Company and remained with them for nine years.

I then became interested in the Seneca Falls and Waterloo Gas Company as Secretary and Treasurer, and held the position until we sold the plant and franchise to William T. Morris of Penn Yan, N. Y. After a short period of rest and recreation I accepted the appointment of Deputy Clerk of Seneca County, which place I resigned in 1906 (June) and took a trip to Europe. While abroad, I was appointed Postmaster of the Seneca Falls office. This appointment, I am pleased to state, came to me unsolicited and quite unexpected. I held the office for eight years and eight months, being removed therefrom through political connivance on March 15, 1915.

During my military career I participated in twenty skirmishes and battles as below given: Lewinsville, Va.; Mannassas; Yorktown; Williamsburg; Fair Oaks; Golden's Farm; Gain's Hill; Mechanicsville; Savage's Station; White Oak Swamp; Malvern Hill; 2nd Bull Run; Chantilly; Jefferson Gap; Antietam; 1st Fredericksburg; 2nd Fredericksburg; Rappahannock Bridge; Mine Run; Wilderness and Spottsylvania Court House.

As previously stated, I began as a Second Lieutenant, promoted to First Lieutenant May 21, 1862, and was at that time offered a captaincy if I would give up my staff position; this, on those terms, I refused to accept. I had grown fond, very fond of staff life and its exciting and varying duties.

My total soldier service was three and one-third years. As a matter of course I participated in all the pleasures and miseries which were inseparable from the long, weary, hungry and thirsty marches of the Army of the Potomac. The memory of the misery and uncertainty of my experience on the lonely picket line and the skirmish line, and of the pleasures of the camp are equally mixed. The one thing which I regret most of all is that I was not permitted to follow to the last the career and finish of the Army life at Appomattox.

This narrative I have written with but one object in view. Each of my children will be given a copy in order that in coming years it may be referred to by them and their children, perhaps their grandchildren, for information that otherwise would be very difficult to obtain.

Price W. Bailey
June 4, 1915

Benjamin Franklin Beach

The subject of this sketch early became interested in the record of his ancestors. From all available sources he gathered the facts and combined them into an elaborate chart. A member of the family, a retired lawyer in New York, who had become interested in genealogy, borrowed this chart and made a number of copies, the most accurate and valuable help that he had found.

Pilgrim John Beach was born in England about 1625 and came to New Haven in 1650. Israel Beach, Sr., came early to Stratford, Conn., and settled on the bear swamp farm, so-called from the fact that the last bear seen in that section was killed in that swamp. The farm was largely made up of immense ledges of primeval rock. A few years ago this swamp was blasted out for a reservoir connected with the Bridgeport system of water works.

Israel, Jr., married Lois Hawley and built a house near his father's. He had eleven children, all given Bible names. Most of them had large families, and were sometimes spoken of as the eleven tribes of Israel. There was no occasion in those days to speak of race suicide. All the boys were not needed on the small and stony farms. They were generally apprenticed at the age of fourteen, serving seven years. They were given their board, clothing, a few months schooling in the winter and occasionally some spending money varying in amount in accordance with the liberality of the boss and his appreciation of his apprentice's faithfulness. At the end of seven years, the apprentice was given an extra new suit and perhaps $100 in money. This was his diploma. He was competent to hire out to some boss, as a journeyman, or to open a shop and go into business for himself.

One of these sons was David, the grandfather of Frank. He was a skilled carpenter and millright. He started in business at Washington, a few miles from Stratford. He prospered, built a modest house, married and had money ahead. He was accommodating, and in an evil hour he signed a note for a friend. The friend's venture proved unfortunate. David Beach would have to pay the note. To do this would take all his savings, his house, shop and a considerable amount of money that he had not yet earned. Exemption laws were not as liberal as they are today and debtors were sent to prison. Glowing reports of the Genesee Country had reached the Connecticut town and David saw fairer prospects there than in narrow jail limits at home. Without waiting for an officer with a warrant, somewhere between sundown and sunup, with a carpet bag not very heavily loaded, and with five dollars in his pocket, he started for the state line. In time he struck the Great Western Turnpike running from Albany to the Genesee Country. Now and then he caught a ride, but walked most of the way, stopping for the night at any convenient place, and as the modern tramp is supposed to do, worked for his lodging and meals. (Whether or not he thought an officer was after him, he made the best time he could toward the west.) Passing by the linseed oil mill of Jonathan

Stout in Waterloo, he detected the smell of heated machinery and stepped into the mill to notify the proprietor that there was something wrong. Mr. Stout just then was needing a man and here was the man he wanted. He hired him. In less than a year David had earned enough to send for his wife and children. They came all the way in a one-horse wagon. This was in 1818. Two of his brothers also came; Elam, a cooper, and Hezekiah, a fuller of cloth. In 1824, David and Elam bought adjacent tracts of land, then almost wholly forest east of this village.

Frank Beach, the son of Erastus, was born a short distance south of the village in 1863. His was a hard and struggling boyhood. He was always willing, patient, faithful. His early education was that of the country district school. In his leisure, he was studying or reading the best books. He was accurate, observing, and thoughtful. If there were boys skylarking about in the evening, he was not with them. He was helping his mother with the housework or, by the light of a tallow candle, he was ciphering out his arithmetic on a slate or reading some good book. When not needed at home, he would look for work elsewhere and farmers who needed help for the summer months were always glad to hire him. For several winters, he taught district schools, and the men and women who were his pupils remember him with the greatest respect. While teaching some of these schools near the village, he studied French and some other subjects, reciting at the Academy. For a few years he was a farmer and then he entered the employment of the Goulds. The fact that he was retained as a traveling salesman for twenty-six years proves the confidence his employers had in him. Seventeen years ago, an accident made it necessary for him to give up traveling. Since then, with health impaired, he has stayed at his home in the village, devoting himself to the care of his garden.

For more than fifty years he has kept a diary. The entries show that in his travels he was taking notice of everything. He would bring home little relics of historic or scientific interest. His mind was receptive as well as retentive. This Society and the public are indebted to him for his many and valuable contributions relating to early history. He was a genial man and never made his friends uncomfortable by his complainings. He made the best and most of all that he had. "The windows of his soul he threw wide open to the sun." He enjoyed the confidence of all about him and never betrayed a public or private trust.

At one time, we happened to be in Bridgeport together. We visited the house built by the first Israel Beach, nearly two hundred years ago and still standing. It was a quaint old house, sided as well as roofed with chestnut shingles nearly two feet long and nailed on with nails, every one hammered out on the anvil. There were the great fireplaces, the great stone chimney, one side of which formed a stone stairway to the upper floor. There were many relics, spinning wheels for wool and flax, a willow winnowing fan, a powder horn, which had been carried in the old French and Indian War, a pair of stirrups that saw service in the same war, antique table

furnishing of different kinds. He drew a sketch of the old house with its ancient trees, stone walls, and an outstanding oxcart. They all gave him a vivid picture of the old time life with its hardships and its comforts.

I also went with him to Stratford. While searching the town records in the old Stratford Town Hall, we found the "ear marks" of the first John Beach's cattle registered, and also those of other Beaches. It was in May for the lilacs were in blossom and the air was full of the lilac and apple blossom sweetness. From an open window we could look into the graveyard where Nathaniel, Reuben, and Israel lay. I remember those little pilgrimages with Frank Beach with so much pleasure.

Of course you know that he could do wonderful stunts with his pen and ink. He made me a genealogy of the Beach family from the first John and set up gravestones in it with cherubs on the top and elaborate scroll work and all the inscriptions faithfully copied.

He had great skill in grafting and budding trees and in vine culture. He was a botanist of the natural type and his fund of information on trees, shrubs, flowers and even wayside weeds was inexhaustible.

He could contribute a little bit at almost any thing under discussion. Added to all this was his genial temperament and kindliness of heart. Maybe he had a temper when he was young, but I never heard of it. He found the greatest satisfaction in his garden. He looked upon his flowers as friends and they responded to his care almost as if they were animate things. He made the most of all his opportunities and in the best sense kept young in spirit. He was a Christian and for five years, he had missed but one Sunday morning service. He was mercifully spared a long sickness at the close of his long life.

Mrs. Bloomer and Mrs. Stanton in Seneca Falls

by

MISS CAROLINE F. LESTER

March 18, 1948

By the year 1840, Seneca Falls had developed into a prosperous village. Its location between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, its abundant water power, canal system, and fertile soil attracted a good class of settlers. After 1831, when the village had become incorporated, had received its present name, selected Ansel Bascom, an able young lawyer as its president, and set up a fire department, police force, and village board, the population had increased rapidly. During the 1830's Wilhelmus Mynderse had died after having spent nearly fifty years of pioneer life in this town. His foresight and executive ability and good taste did much for Seneca Falls and this entire region. It is well that his name was given to our high school and one of the village streets.

The village was likewise fortunate in having Gary V. Sackett take up his residence here during the 1830's. A man of much personal magnetism, and a natural leader, Mr. Sackett soon assumed some of the duties and privileges formerly exercised by Mr. Mynderse. Seneca Falls was fortunate in having two such men as residents,—men of high standards, knowledge of the world, and a capacity for leadership during its formative period. Their genial manners and social poise helped to attract a good class of citizens and to stabilize the business, religious, and social life of this region.

Gradually, the village streets had been widened, roads improved, and building lots of generous proportions laid out. Trees were planted along these streets, and houses of character and distinction were built frequently much farther back from the street and with more ample grounds than in many villages of that generation. During this period of the mid-1830's a good architect came to this region and I have been told that under his supervision the Erastus Partridge Greek Revival house now the Homemaking Center of our public school system was built. Likewise the handsome Greek Revival house on Cayuga Lake Boulevard, now owned by Mr. F. L. Story, and the smaller one just south of that, once owned by Rensaaler Schuyler, were built by this same man. The two excellent examples of Dutch Colonial houses in this region are of that period, also. The red brick house in Canoga, formerly owned by Mr. Ovide Guay, and originally the property of the Chatham family; and the present home of Mrs. Charles L. Hoskins were likewise the work of this architect. In the 1830's homes here were built to give a view of waterways, and Mrs. Hoskins still retains the back porch where, a century ago, the Hoskins family could watch packet boats pass up and down the canal on their way from Albany to Buffalo. Other men of equal skill built the fine old homes still standing on Bayard and Fall Streets, and the doorways and charm of location of many of these homes like those of the Usher, Latham, and

Lawrence families still delight us. These homes are still occupied by the descendants of the first owners.

Bayard Street was the aristocratic street of the village in the 1830's and 1840's, for its proximity to the canal and to the center of the village made it an agreeable and convenient place to live. For that reason the first Trinity Church was built there, and several other large buildings for profit and amusement that have since been removed.

These indications of the prosperity of our citizens during this period will be strengthened by mentioning that preparations for building the Auburn branch of the New York Central Railroad were under way in the early 1840's. It is interesting to know that stock in this railroad was offered for sale in Seneca Falls in the year 1843, for three days only, and that the citizens subscribed the sum of $122,900 for shares.

During the decade between 1838 and 1848, Seneca Falls had several newspapers that represented various political parties and other interests. Some time before 1840, however, through the influence of Gary V. Sackett, Mr. Isaac Fuller established a Republican newspaper called **The Seneca County Courier.** Mr. Fuller and his wife were exceptionally fine people and lived in our village for many years. **The Seneca County Courier** played a pleasantly important part in events that followed and our deep regret is that its files were destroyed by the fire of 1890.

On April 16, 1840, a young man and woman drove into Seneca Falls from Waterloo, and stopped at the home of the Fullers on Bayard Street. The Fullers then lived in what, years ago, used to be called the Mumford house, opposite where the Ushers now live. This young man and woman were Mr. and Mrs. Dexter C. Bloomer who had been married the day before in Waterloo, by the Reverend Samuel Gridley, and were to board with the Fullers for the time being. Mr. Bloomer was of Quaker descent and had come across the lake from his birthplace, Aurora, to assist Mr. Fuller in the publication of **The Seneca County Courier,** and to complete his law studies between times. Dexter Bloomer had attended the local school in Aurora, taught school for a few terms, and begun the study of law before coming to Seneca Falls, and at the time of his marriage was twenty-four years old, tall and slender. He had lived in Seneca Fall two years.

His wife, Amelia Jenks, had been born in the year 1818, in Homer, New York, and lived there until she was six years old. Her parents then moved into this locality living for a time in Clyde, in Ovid, and finally settling in Waterloo where lived one of their married daughters. Mr. Bloomer states that his wife taught school for one term during the time her parents lived in Clyde, but that she never again taught in a regular school. However, for four years Amelia acted as governess in the family of Oren Chamberlain in Waterloo. She was twenty-two years old when she married Dexter Bloomer. She was rather frail, and had auburn hair and blue eyes

edged with black, according to Mr. Bloomer, and was five feet and four inches tall and weighed one hundred pounds.

Mr. Bloomer's own description of the episode that occurred the first evening in Seneca Falls is so good that I will quote it in full for it portrays a situation that was the key-note of Mrs. Bloomer's life. "Mr. Bloomer had very many friends in the town, and on the evening of his arrival with his bride they filled Mr. Fuller's rooms to welcome the newly wedded couple to their new home and new life. With them came many members of a fire company of which Mr. Bloomer was a member, accompanied by a band of musicians and all went as merry as a marriage bell. Refreshments were of course served, and among them a plentiful supply of wine, for in those days, this was the almost certain accompaniment of all social gatherings. All or nearly all partook of it: and just then occurred an incident which told most instructively as to the moral character and firmness of the young and happy bride. Glasses were filled with the sparkling beverage and one of them was presented to her by the bridegroom himself, but she firmly yet pleasantly declined to accept it. "What", he said with the greatest earnestness, "will you not drink a glass of wine with me on this joyful occasion? Surely it can do you no harm." "No" she replied smilingly yet firmly, "I cannot — I must not." A crowd of guests could not but admire her great self denial and devotion to principle: — to the end of her days she was a firm and consistent advocate of temperance."

In October, Mr. and Mrs. Bloomer found a house nearer the business part of the village and made a home for themselves. As yet I am not sure where that first home was situated. However, I am inclined to think that it occupied the site where the Masonic Temple now stands. I personally can recall a white house with a small front yard on that site. Mrs. Bloomer was encouraged by her husband to contribute articles to **The Seneca County Courier** and according to the custom of the times she signed them by such romantic names as "Glorianna" and "Eugene". Frequently these articles expanded into brief discussions of local matters, especially along the line of the use of intoxicating beverages.

Before describing another important and long-remembered incident in the life of Amelia Bloomer, it seems best to mention a situation throughout the United States that was arousing national interest. The use of alcoholic beverages and wines had been common throughout the settlement of this country. Probably the stimulant of liquor was really necessary when new regions were being developed. In the Revolutionary War hard liquor was served as a ration in the army and what we had of a navy. Later the pioneers who opened up the new lands of the west used it freely as a tonic and remedy for malaria. There was a regular ration of whiskey issued each day to the men who built the bridge across Cayuga Lake in 1798, by the contractors of the project. The pity was, however, that when the need for this stimulant no longer existed, the habit of its use continued. One has only to read early Church records to find tales of extreme brutality caused by drinking to excess, or to

examine grocery store account books to find a quart of whiskey listed with orders for flour or sugar and other staples as naturally as one today would find a half-dozen oranges. This situation became so widely spread throughout our entire country that finally a great Temperance movement was started in Baltimore by six reformed drunkards. They called it the Washingtonian movement and it performed a great work in bringing men and women to their senses along the line of the use of intoxicating liquor. Such movements proceeded slowly in the 1840's, but a couple of Washingtonian speakers and organizers arrived in Seneca Falls in 1847 or 1848. Women as well as men attended the meetings and now I will quote Mrs. Bloomer's own words, "At this time women had almost no part in all this temperance work. They could attend meetings and listen to the eloquence and arguments of men, and they could pay their money towards the support of temperance lecturers, but such a thing as to their having anything to say or do further than this was not thought of. They were fired with zeal after listening to the Washingtonians — and in some instances held little meetings of their own, organized societies, and passed resolutions expressive of their feelings on this great subject. It was at a meeting of this kind in Seneca Falls — that the matter of publishing a little temperance paper — was first introduced." Thus "The Lily", one of the first newspapers edited, printed, and financed by women came into existence. It took some time to work out the necessary details, collect presses, and gather subscriptions, but on January 1, 1849, the first issue of "The Lily" was mailed to subscribers. The early subscription list was small but in time it expanded to more than four thousand.

While Mrs. Bloomer in her modest, competent way was keeping house, editing "The Lily", and writing timely articles for the **Seneca County Courier**, another young woman was likewise thinking on public matters and yet leading a somewhat gayer life in a village of New York State called Johnstown. In time these two women were to meet in Seneca Falls, become friends, and do outstanding work for women. Now I will ask my listeners to transfer their attention to the historic old town of Johnstown, named for its founder, Sir William Johnson, a noted character of Revolutionary War days.

In the year 1815, on November 12, there was born in that town a baby named Elizabeth Cady. Her father was a prominent and well-to-do lawyer, the County Judge, and had been elected to the United States Congress on the day of Elizabeth's birth. Her mother, Margaret Livingston, was a handsome woman, born of a distinguished New York family. Little Elizabeth was a strong, healthy child, active in mind and body and more precocious than her older sister. It is related that as early as the age of eight or ten she would question her father why certain women clients had cried when talking with him in his office. One biographer describes this early interest of little Elizabeth thus: "So many women came to her father and begged him to help them — poor farm women, some old and wrinkled, some looking tired and worn, bringing their babies with

them. She listened while they told their stories. Husbands, she discovered, were often unkind, even cruel, and the law upheld them. It was wrong for a husband to take the money his wife earned at the wash tub and spend it for drink when his children were hungry. But the law, her father told her, said a wife's wages belong to her husband. There was old Mrs. Brown whose husband had willed her farm to her step-son and now she had no home to go to although she had toiled on that farm all her life.

"Touched by their sorrow and eager to help, Elizabeth always had hoped her father would send them away happy, but he never did. He only shook his head sadly, and when it was hard to make them believe that such injustice was upheld he took down a volume from the shelves and read from the statutes. Elizabeth kept her eye on the book and taking it from him when he had finished reading, spelled out the words for herself and marked the place, putting the book upside down on the shelf so that she could find it again."

In spite of this somewhat precocious interest in problems of her own sex, Elizabeth was a lively, healthy girl enjoying her studies at the Johnstown Academy, but even more enjoying horseback riding. She furthermore had a fondness for talking with older people, especially men, and formed a friendship with the Reverend Simon Hosack, a Scotsman who was Presbyterian minister at Johnstown. She spent many hours chatting with him in his nearby garden and in driving his old white horse while he made his parish rounds.

When Elizabeth was eleven years old her only brother, Eleaser, just graduated from Union College, died, and her father's overwhelming grief deeply impressed her. Finally he said, "Oh, my daughter, would that you were a boy." Stirred by her father's speech, Elizabeth resolved to try to be the boy her father longed for. She persuaded Mr. Hosack to teach her Greek, paid closer attention to her school work, and improved her horseback riding so that she could leap a fence or a ditch. After completing the course at Johnstown Academy, the only girl in the class in higher mathematics, Latin, and Greek, she fully expected to enter Union College. It was a bitter disappointment when she learned that girls were not admitted. However, the Emma Willard Seminary at Troy was substituted for Union College, and after two years at that excellent school, Elizabeth returned to her home at Johnstown a well-educated young lady. Although rather short in stature, five feet and two inches, her curly dark hair, blue eyes, pleasing and animated features and alert, friendly manner made her a favorite with men and women.

Elizabeth was most fortunate in having relatives, the Gerrit Smith family, live in Peterboro, not too far from Johnstown for intimate and friendly visiting. Gerrit Smith was a man of wealth and a well-known abolitionist. His large, commodious home was a station of the Underground railway of those pre-Civil War days and a headquarters for men like William Lloyd Garrison, and others, to discuss political problems relating to the abolition move-

ment. The daughter of the family also named Elizabeth, but called Libby, was about the age of Elizabeth Cady, and many were the visits and houseparties at their homes during the late 1830's.

The circle of friends was enlarged during those days by the Bayard boys who came from Baltimore to study law with Judge Cady. Henry Bayard was a tease and danced and bantered with the quick-witted Elizabeth Cady. Edward, the other brother, was the romantic type, ten years older than Elizabeth, but enjoying walks and drives, and best of all, long talks with this spirited girl. All too soon he asked her to marry him, but she felt too uncertain of her feelings to accept him, and on the rebound, he married her older sister, Tryphema, after which they moved to Seneca Falls where Edward opened a law office. Before too long, Judge Cady took a business trip to the west, invited Elizabeth to accompany him as far as Seneca Falls and she visited her sister and Edward. Several such visits were made during the next few years. (I feel sure that Edward Bayard's father and Stephen N. Bayard, one of the "Proprietors of Seneca" who in 1817 owned most of the land now comprised in this village were closely related, perhaps brothers, but I have not been able to verify my suspicions as yet.)

A while after the marriage of Edward Bayard and Tryphema Cady a new visitor to the home of Gerrit Smith engaged Elizabeth's interest. This was a young man named Henry B. Stanton, an ardent abolitionist who had relinquished the study of law to lecture on the abolition movement. Although there seemed to be impediments of many kinds to their friendship developing into marriage, Henry and Elizabeth finally wisely decided the matter for themselves and were married May 10, 1840, and sailed the next week for England to attend the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London.

You all know the story, but it must be repeated briefly in this paper as an important link in the chain of the Woman's Suffrage Movement. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stanton were delegates to this important Abolitionist Convention held in Free Mason's Hall in London, June 12, 1840. Delegates from all over the world were present, and Elizabeth felt very happy when she found herself in the company of a Hicksite Quaker lady named Lucretia Mott, and talking with Wendell Phillips, a prominent Boston abolitionist, and his beautiful young wife. The actual meeting was preceded by a discussion by the men on the question of admitting women as delegates. Wendell Phillips made a motion that fully qualified women be admitted as delegates. The stormy debate of that motion lasted for several hours, but his motion was defeated and women delegates were excluded by an overwhelming majority. That they were even admitted as visitors was a concession, for women before had never been admitted to a business meeting. All this aroused Elizabeth far more than the anti-slavery question which the meeting was called to discuss, and as she and Lucretia Mott walked that night to their lodgings, arm in arm, they made their plans: they would hold a convention in America to advocate the rights of women.

The two month's stay in England during which the Stantons were introduced through the Quaker friends of the Motts to many famous people passed all too quickly. The memory of a few words with Charles Dickens at some reception, and with Tom Moore, the poet, gave Elizabeth life-long joy. A month in Paris followed, and the young couple returned home to Johnstown with a fairly clear perspective of the Old World and a willingness to face the new world with courage. After a year in the Cady home where Mr. Stanton completed his law studies in Judge Cady's office, the Stantons settled in Boston where they lived for two years or more. Life there was stimulating for the Stantons at that time. Elizabeth became interested in the Unitarianism of Theodore Parker and attended his church. She spent two days at Brook Farm and met William Henry Channing, Charles A. Dana, and Mrs. Horace Greeley. In Boston she also met Frederick Douglass, the negro abolitionist, who in 1848, attended the Woman's Rights Convention in this village, and the Quaker poet, Whittier. In the meantime she had two sons, one born during the year's stay at Johnstown, and the second during the Boston period.

Although life in Boston was promising and agreeable, the damp, rigorous climate proved unhealthful and the Stantons finally selected Seneca Falls for their home. They felt that central New York was a healthful region. Judge Cady owned quite a bit of property in and about Seneca Falls, and could provide a house for Elizabeth at the edge of the village, and a powerful group of liberals and anti-slavery leaders lived there. Her father gave her a generous check to use in repairing the house, and said, "You believe in woman's ability to do and dare; now go ahead and put your place in order."

So, Elizabeth with her children, the last an infant, her third son, went to Seneca Falls to open up a home. She was thirty-one years old at the time, strong and healthy in body and mind. She had visited in the village several times during the time the Edward Bayard family lived here, and already had a few acquaintances. Among these were Ansel Bascom and Judge Gary V. Sackett. Ansel Bascom was at that time a member of the State Constitutional Convention at Albany that was revising the Constitution of New York State. When Mr. Bascom called now and then to see how the repairs on the house were progressing, Elizabeth discussed with him the desirability of repealing certain laws disadvantageous to women. He and Mr. Sackett admired the generous and far-sighted conversation of Mrs. Stanton, and also aided her in practical ways in restoring the house.

I will now quote a few paragraphs from Mrs. Stanton's own description of life at that period. [1] "In Seneca Falls my life was comparatively solitary, and the change from Boston somewhat depressing. There all my friends were reformers. I had near neighbors, a new house with all the modern conveniences and well-trained servants. Here our residence was on the outskirts of the town, roads very often muddy and no sidewalks most of the way. Mr. Stanton was frequently from home. I had poor servants, and

an increasing number of children. To keep a house and grounds in good order, purchase every article for daily use, keep the wardrobes of half a dozen human beings in proper trim, take the children to dentists, shoemakers, and different schools, or find teachers at home, altogether made sufficient work to keep one brain busy as well as all the hands I could press into the service.

"Up to this time life had glided by with comparative ease, but now the real struggle was upon me. My duties were too numerous and varied and none sufficiently exhilarating or intellectual to bring into play my higher faculties.

"I now fully understood the practical difficulties most women had to contend with in an isolated household.

"In this tempest-tossed condition of mind I received an invitation to spend the day with Lucretia Mott at Richard Hunt's in Waterloo. There I met several members of different families of Friends, earnest, thoughtful women. I poured out the torrent of my long accumulating discontent with such vehemence and indignation that I stirred myself, as well as the rest of the party to do and dare anything. My discontent according to Emerson must have been healthy, for it moved us all to prompt action and we decided, then and there, to call a "Woman's Rights Convention."

"We wrote the call that evening and published it in the Seneca County Courier the next day, July 14, 1848, giving only five days' notice as the convention was to be held on the 19th and 20th. The call was inserted without signatures, — in fact it was a mere announcement of a meeting, but the movers and managers were Lucretia Mott, Mary Ann McClintock, Jane Hunt, Martha C. Wright, and myself. The convention, which was held two days in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, was in every way a success. The house was crowded at every session, the speaking good, and a religious earnestness dignified all the proceedings. At the first session a Declaration of Sentiments, patterned after the Declaration of Independence, was read.

"As we had but five days from this time of calling the convention until the date set for convening, all preparations had to be made with the greatest dispatch. — There was little time for consultation; each one of the rebellious group had to develop some side of the great drama. Besides the Declaration, eleven resolutions covering our aims and demands were prepared. I was wholly responsible for the Ninth Resolution which proved to be the contentious plank of our platform. My revolutionary sentiment read: "Resolved. That it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise." When I spoke to Lucretia Mott about my intention to present this, she amazed me by objecting. "Why, Lizzie, thee will make us ridiculous." But I persisted, for I saw clearly that the power to make the laws was the right through which all other rights could be secured.

"No words could express our astonishment on finding what seemed to us so timely, so rational, and so sacred should be a sub-

ject for sarcasm and ridicule to the entire press of the nation. With our Declaration of Rights and Resolutions for a text, it seemed as if every man who could wield a pen prepared a homily on woman's sphere. So pronounced was the popular voice against us in the parlor, press, and pulpit, that most of the ladies who had attended the convention and signed the declaration, one by one, withdrew their names and influence and joined our persecutors. Our friends gave us the cold shoulder, and felt themselves disgraced by the whole proceeding."

The foregoing paragraphs are a direct quotation from Mrs. Stanton's own account of the 1848 Woman's Rights Convention. It may be interesting to note at this time Mrs. Bloomer's reaction to the convention. Mr. Bloomer in his "Life and Writings of Amelia Bloomer" under the caption, "Mrs. Bloomer thinks about it", writes: "Mrs. Bloomer at the time these meetings were held was residing quietly at her home in Seneca Falls, engaged in a modest way in religious and temperance work. She had not yet thought much on the subject of women's rights, so called, except so far as it related to the obstacles which the laws as then formed threw in the way of securing the triumph of total abstinence principles. She (Mrs. Bloomer) attended the Mott-Stanton convention in Seneca Falls, but took no part in its proceedings and did not sign either the resolutions or declaration of independence.

"But the principles promulgated in those documents began to have an effect upon her thoughts and actions as they did upon those of many other women of that day. They realized, almost for the first time, that there was something wrong in the laws under which they lived, and that they had something to do in the work of reforming and improving them."

In many ways the 1848 convention in Seneca Falls seems to have reacted favorably on Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Bloomer during the years that followed. Mrs. Stanton was provided with a new and increasingly important interest that expanded throughout the remainder of her life. Mrs. Bloomer likewise enlarged her horizon of thought and endeavor, and came to realize that the Temperance Movement to which she had adhered so loyally for a decade or more really was dependent upon the more comprehensive interest of woman's suffrage and thereafter in her public addresses brought that thought to her audiences.

During this period Mrs. Stanton's cousin, Elizabeth Smith Miller, the daughter of Gerrit Smith of Peterboro, and the "Libby" of earlier days, visited Mrs. Stanton in Seneca Falls. She was dressed in a costume no one in this region had seen before, and was the object of much curiosity and interest. This costume consisted of a blouse daintily trimmed at the neck, a skirt reaching to the knees or perhaps a few inches below, worn over Turkish trousers that were gathered at the ankles. The costume could be made of silk or woolen material according to the season and was pronounced comfortable and convenient by many women. The long full skirts usually worn by women of those days were cumbersome, especially

for active women, and immediately, Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Bloomer copied Mrs. Miller's costume. Mrs. Bloomer in her newspaper, **The Lily,** defended the new style after city newspapers had laughed it to scorn, and her defense was likewise made ridiculous, so that as a parting blow to women, some bright columnist called the new style, the bloomer costume. The name became popular, but with the passing of time the many women became annoyed at the jeers and sneers of even small boys in the street who repeated these lines as the women passed in the costume:

"High! ho! in rain and snow
The bloomer now is all the go
Twenty tailors take the stitches
Twenty women wear the breeches.
High! ho! in rain or snow
The bloomer now is all the go."

So after six or seven years the "short dress" as the ladies themselves called it was discontinued as a suitable costume for all occasions.

The year 1850 was an important one for both Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Bloomer. I now will quote Mrs. Stanton's pleasant tribute to Mrs. Bloomer, written in after years about her life in Seneca Falls.[2] "There was one bright woman among the many in our Seneca Falls literary circle to whom I would give more than passing notice, Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, who represented three novel phases of woman's life. She was an assistant postmistress; and editor of a reform paper advocating temperance and woman's rights; and an advocate of the new costume which bore her name.

"In 1849, her husband was appointed postmaster, and she became his deputy, was duly sworn in, and during the administrations of Taylor and Fillmore served in that capacity. When she assumed her duties the improvement in appearance and conduct of the office was generally acknowledged. A neat little room adjoining the public office became a kind of ladies' exchange where those coming from different parts of the town could meet to talk over the news of the day, and read the papers and magazines that came to Mrs. Bloomer as editor of **The Lily.** Those who enjoyed the brief reign of a woman in the post office can readily testify to the void felt by the ladies of the village when Mrs. Bloomer's term expired and a man once more reigned in her stead. However, she still edited **The Lily,** and her office remained a fashionable center for several years."

In the spring of 1850, another interesting woman made her entrance to Seneca Falls, and Mrs. Bloomer introduced two women to each other who made history for nearly half a century. I now will quote from "The Life and Writings of Amelia Bloomer." — "It was in the spring of 1850, that I introduced Susan B. Anthony to Mrs. Stanton. Miss Anthony had come to attend an anti-slavery meeting in Seneca Falls, held by George Thompson and William Lloyd Garrison, and was my guest. Returning from the meeting we stopped at the street corner and waited for Mrs. Stanton, and I

gave the introduction which has resulted in a life-long friendship. Afterwards, we called at Mrs. Stanton's house and the way was opened for future intercourse between them. It was, as Mrs. Stanton says in her history, an eventful meeting that henceforth, in a measure, shaped their lives. Neither would have done what she did without the other. Mrs. Stanton had the intellectual, and Susan the executive ability to carry forward the movement then recently inaugurated. Without the push of Miss Anthony, Mrs. Stanton would probably never have gone abroad into active life or achieved half she has done; and without the brains of Mrs. Stanton, Miss Anthony would never have been so largely known to the world by name and deeds. They helped and strengthened each other and together they have accomplished great things for women and humanity. The writer is glad for the part she had in bringing two such characters together."

It has been a pleasure in preparing this little paper to find these two tributes of unusual women for each other. They show a generosity and discrimination not always found in women in public life.

Before closing this brief history of the work of these two women who lived in our village a century ago, I must quote an account of a crowning achievement of each of them. In the year 1853, Mrs. Bloomer was perhaps at the height of her power as a lecturer. She was thirty-five years old, and had gained self-possession and poise during her years of married life. Accompanied by Susan B. Anthony and the Rev. Antoinette Brown, Mrs. Bloomer left home to attend temperance mass meetings in Albany. Now I will quote Mrs. Bloomer's account of what happened: "We had been attending a temperance mass meeting in the city of Albany, where we had both day and evening been addressing the assembled hosts that had come together from all parts of the State. At these meetings we were met by parties from New York who invited us to visit that city and hold a series of meetings, assuring us that every preparation would be made and we should be received by a good audience. These meetings were held in Metropolitan Hall, where Jennie Lind made her debut on arriving in this country, and in the old Broadway Tabernacle, and in Knickerbocker Hall.

"That was in the early days of the woman's rights movement, and women speaking in public was a new thing outside of a Quaker meeting-house. We were the first to address an audience of New Yorkers from a public platform; and much curiosity was excited to hear and see wonderful women who had outstepped their sphere and were turning the world upside down. The halls at each meeting were filled to their utmost capacity from 3000 to 5000 being the estimated number in attendance. At the Metropolitan, Horace Greeley and his wife, and a number of others were seated with us on the platform, and at the other meetings Mr. Greeley was present and manifested much interest in our work, taking copious notes and giving columns of the **Tribune** to reports of our speeches."

This New York experience of Mrs. Bloomer and Susan B. Anthony should be remembered by us all, for I have never heard of a Seneca Falls woman since that time who has ever achieved such an intellectual triumph and I doubt if her experience has been equaled by any one from this region.

Mrs. Stanton during the year 1853, likewise had an honor thrust upon her in the form of an invitation to address the legislature at our State Capitol in Albany on the subject of the woman's franchise movement. Her father, Judge Cady, had read a notice of that plan in an Albany newspaper, and as he like most fathers still thought of his daughter as a child, desired her to stop at Johnstown and tell him about her speech on the way to Albany. Therefore in the winter of 1853, with a faithful nursemaid and her younger children, Mrs. Stanton started for Albany. To please her father she made the brief visit at her old home and read her prepared speech to her father. I now quote her description of that experience. "On no occasion, before or since, was I ever more embarrassed — an audience of one and the one of all others whose approbation I most desired, whose disapproval I most feared. I knew that he condemned the whole movement, and was deeply grieved at the active part I had taken. Hence I was fully aware that I was about to address a wholly unsympathetic audience. However, I began with a dogged determination to give all the power I could to my manuscript, and not be discouraged or turned from my purpose by any tender appeals or adverse criticism. I described the widow in the first hours of her grief, subject to the intrusions of the minions of the law, taking inventory of the household goods, and followed with other examples of women's sufferings. I threw all the pathos I could into my voice and language at this point and — I saw tears filling my father's eyes. I cannot express the exultation I felt that now he would see, with my eyes, the injustice women suffered under the laws he understood so well. "Where did you learn this lesson?" my father asked. I replied, "In your office when a child listening to the complaints women made to you." "Well, well," he said, "you have made your points clear and strong; but I think I can find you even more cruel laws then those you have quoted." The speech before the legislature was well received by the members and ridiculed by the newspapers, but Elizabeth was accustomed to such treatment and for the next fifty years braved such audiences from all sorts of people throughout the United States.

Late in that somewhat eventful year, 1853, the following quaint notice appeared in the December number of **The Lily.** "Our husband having purchased an interest in the **Western Home Visitor** published in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and determined upon moving to that place forthwith, we as a true and faithful wife, are bound to say in the language of Ruth, 'Where thou goest, I will go'." Thus did Mrs. Bloomer announce their leaving Seneca Falls. I may add in passing that a large reception was given the Bloomers before their departure at which many tokens of esteem were expressed by the several hundred citizens present. This gratifying evidence of good

fellowship and friendliness was concluded with dancing in the fine, old-fashioned way.

The Stanton family remained in the village until late in 1862. Mrs. Stanton's children, seven in all, five boys and two girls, were increasingly self-reliant with the years, and she and Mr. Stanton had a happy, busy, and hospitable home. Mrs. Stanton and Susan B. Anthony cooperated in their lecture work during and after that period. Susan would visit the Stantons in Seneca Falls, help with the children when they were small, and with a family of seven there was one small one most of the time, — help with the cooking and give Mrs. Stanton the opportunity to go quietly to an upstairs room and write out the speech they had discussed topics for the evening before. Then when the speech was completed Susan would attend meetings at various up-state towns like Avon, Clifton Springs, Batavia, and deliver the speech while Mrs. Stanton tended babies at home, wrote beautiful letters to her two older boys at school, made jelly and preserves, and went to bed tired, to read "Bleak House" half the night for relaxation.

Sometimes when help was competent Mrs. Stanton would make addresses here and there in this vicinity. She mentions addressing groups of teachers, and was very proud on one occasion of receiving ten dollars for speaking at a meeting in Junius, probably Magee's Corners.

In 1862, she was asked by the women of our village to present a flag they had made to a company of soldiers called The Wide Awakes before they left for war. Then quietly with no public demonstration the Stanton family left Seneca Falls late in that year, never to reside here again. Mr. Stanton had been assigned to government work in Washington; their oldest son wanted to enlist in the army and being refused permission by his parents, enlisted without it. Mrs. Stanton and the other children took up their residence in New York and so Seneca Falls within that decade lost the two citizens that now are making our village famous.

It has been suggested that for the benefit of those who are not near large libraries, the following information about Mrs. Bloomer and Mrs. Stanton be added to this paper.

Mr. and Mrs. Dexter C. Bloomer resided in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, for several years and after leaving there made their home in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for the remainder of their lives. Mr. Bloomer practiced law in Council Bluffs and as long as she was physically able Mrs. Bloomer continued to make addresses on Temperance and Woman's Suffrage in neighboring states. In 1890, Mr. and Mrs. Bloomer celebrated their golden wedding at their Council Bluff's home and received many gifts and notes of congratulations from local and distant friends. Late in the year 1893, Mrs. Bloomer died and the next year Mr. Bloomer wrote her biography, "The Life and Writings of Amelia Bloomer." This is now a very valuable book.

After leaving Seneca Falls, the Stanton family moved to New York City and later to Tenafly, New Jersey. Mrs. Stanton's daugh-

ters attended Vassar College and later married, one becoming Mrs. Blatch, and one Mrs. Lawrence. Mrs. Stanton became increasingly interested and active in the Woman's Suffrage movement and for many years made regular lecture tours eight or nine months of the year to the west or wherever the call was loudest. She was speaker for the movement at Washington many times, and with Miss Anthony helped found women's organizations to further the movement. She felt sure that some day women would receive the right to cast a ballot, but died in 1902, before the amendment to the Constitution granted this right. Her life was always upright, unselfish, and devoted to the cause of the rights of women.

[1] Stanton, Theodore and Blatch, Harriet Stanton.
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1922. Vols. I and II
Vol. I, pp. 142-144.

[2] Ibid. p. 170.

A Sketch of the History of the Hoskins Family in Seneca Falls, N. Y. Prepared for the Seneca Falls Historical Society by John S. Gay from Notes Collected by Charles L. Hoskins 2nd, Edited and Elaborated by Cyrus Garnsey Jr.

December 10, 1934

The history of the Hoskins family so far as we are this evening concerned commences with the marriage in the middle of the eighteenth century at Groton, Conn., of Samuel Hoskins and Mary Blake. From this union was born Ebenezer Hoskins, the pioneer of the family in this vicinity. He emigrated with his family from Groton to New York State about 1795 and settled in what is now Tompkins County north of the present village of Ludlowville. He was a privateer during the Revolution and was captured by the British and taken to Jamaica. Being a cooper by trade while at work making rum casks he made his escape. This must have been early in the Revolution for Mrs. Charles Hoskins 2nd recalls a remark by her late father-in-law to the effect that his grandfather was with Washington at Valley Forge.

The farm once owned by this original Hoskins is situate in the Town of North Lansing, Tompkins County about five miles south of Kings Ferry Village just beyond a fork in the State Road. Portions of the old barn are still standing. He and some of his family lie buried in the small graveyard on the east side of the road north of the ravine. He apparently lived there the remainder of his life. That he was a progressive citizen is shown by the fact that he sent his eldest son Ebenezer Hoskins, the great grandfather of the writer, to Williams College whither according to the tradition in the family, he rode as far as Albany on horseback. A most interesting relic it is possible to see this evening is a certificate signed by Ebenezer Hoskins as one of five trustees entitling the bearer to one share in the Genoa Library and dated Ludlowville, July 15, 1815.

In addition to Ebenezer, 2nd, we shall note of his children only Laban and Charles L., the latter being known personally to many of the audience here this evening as the founder of the dry goods

business which stood for nearly a hundred years at the corner of Fall and Cayuga Streets.

The eldest son, Ebenezer Hoskins 2nd, married as his first wife, Sophia Bostwick of Auburn. He resided in that city for some time, certainly in 1825, as his daughter Laura, who later married my grandfather, John S. Gay, as a girl of nine, stood on the fence and saw His Grace, The Marquis de LaFayette ride by in his coach. He was also the father of Hannah B. Gould, wife of Seabury S. Gould the first, and of Elizabeth Mundy, mother of Sophia Mundy. By a second marriage he was the father of Mrs. Ann Downs, wife of Abel Downs who with Seabury S. Gould founded Goulds Pumps Inc. It is not recorded that Ebenezer exhibited the commercial ability of either of the two other brothers recorded here. He served as a Justice of the Peace and is recorded as possessing a law library, but I cannot find that he was ever a duly admitted attorney. It was common in those days for persons of education to serve in the courts not of record as attorneys and the business was in many cases a lucrative one including as it did the drawing of deeds, wills and other papers. It is fair to presume that for a portion of his life he followed this business. He must have been associated with his younger brother in business here for we find an agreement dissolving the partnership between them dated August 1, 1835. From the fact that the style of the firm was C. L. Hoskins and Co. we may perhaps infer that he was not an active partner. He survived all three of his wives and spent his declining years with his daughter, Mrs. Gould.

Laban Hoskins the second brother became a merchant at Union Springs and lived a long, honorable, and useful life in that community when it was more thriving than at the present time and died there in 1863 leaving an estate which for those days was a considerable one. A copy of his will, a model of precision, is preserved with the papers which I have here this evening and it appears by the same papers that the inheritance tax upon his estate was $660.00. Apparently he left no descendants.

Charles L. Hoskins, the youngest son of the pioneer, was apparently very close to Laban, as he learned the merchandising business in his store and upon his decease served as his executor.

It is with this Charles L. Hoskins, who lived the bulk of his active life in the Village of Seneca Falls and was for nearly eighty years engaged in mercantile business in this vicinity, that our history now concerns itself. The writer deems it a privilege to record that he himself did business with this venerable gentleman when, as a boy, he delivered insurance policies to him and took back his checks written with a pen fashioned by himself from a goose quill. As we have told you he learned the mercantile business with his older brother, Laban, at Union Springs. In 1821 he started in business for himself at the hamlet of Fayette, occupying the east side of the building for many years kept as a hotel by the late John Broadhead. He kept there a general country store such as was usually seen in those days in every country town. At that time there

were only one or two houses in the hamlet but the countryside was prosperous and a thriving business was done with the surrounding farmers.

As the neighboring community of Seneca Falls grew more rapidly his enterprising instinct drew him thither, and in 1829 he removed to Seneca Falls and built a brick store building on the site of the present Hoskins Block, corner of Fall and Cayuga Streets. In 1840 he took the building down in consequence of some needed street improvements and immediately put up a larger building. This last building was destroyed by fire which consumed that whole corner on January 16, 1869. In 1861 the late Lansing S. Hoskins had been taken into partnership. This firm rebuilt in a substantial manner following the fire and the business continued until about 1880 when the elder Hoskins retired.

Originally this store kept a stock of general merchandise, but about 1860 the business became confined to dry goods exclusively. At the time of his coming here the only stores keeping dry goods were King & Gay, Mr. Partridge's store kept by Mr. Thaw, and Samuel and Abel Payne. His business survived them all. It was recorded that at the time of his engaging in business there were about a dozen dry goods firms each in Auburn and Geneva, everyone of which afterward failed. The writer recalls that his father told him on a number of occasions of the sagacity in business of Mr. Hoskins and how in the days of inflation during and immediately after the Civil War he refused to buy any quantity of goods at the high prices, knowing full well that the bubble must burst as indeed it did.

Mr. Hoskins was married three times, to Sophia Giddings, Eliza Ely Goodwin and Mary Elizabeth Woolsey respectively. His children were Frances who married Thomas Fatsinger December 16, 1856; Laura who married Wolcott S. Hubbell January 12, 1854; Annette who remained unmarried; Eliza G. who was married on February 25, 1858 to Cyrus Garnsey; Helen M. who was married on December 23, 1857 to Myron H. Beach; Catharine W. who was married March 20, 1875, to F. E. Griswold; and one son Lansing S. Hoskins, born January 4, 1839.

Possibly no better tribute to the life or character of Charles L. Hoskins can be given than the following quoted in part from the "Seneca Falls Reveille" of April 23, 1897 wherein tribute was paid in the inimitable language of its late editor, Henry Stowell.

> "Mr. Hoskins was a man of correct business habits, methodical, exacting and tireless in devotion to every detail of trade. He was a natural merchant. All his customers were his confidential friends — he made them so by aiding them in all ways in the transaction of their business and in giving them wholesome advice when such advice was needed. His integrity of purpose was unquestioned. It may be said of him that he never knowingly wronged anyone. He was essentially a man of gentleness and sincerity, honest and honorable, without bitterness and without guile.

"In all things pertaining to the highest welfare of the Village, its business, religious or educational interest, he was foremost and conspicuous. He loved his home and its dear ones with a degree of tenderness and affection rarely witnessed. He retained his faculties to the last, and sustained and surrounded by loved ones the end came to him 'like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams.' "

Of the other branches of the Hoskins family contemporary with Mr. Charles L., or Uncle Charles as he was always affectionately known in our family, it may be said that their history is in considerable measure the history of the Village. Four daughters of his brother Ebenezer married men prominent in the business and social life of the Village, Hannah Hoskins being the wife of Seabury S. Gould; Elizabeth Hoskins, the wife of Abram Mundy, a prominent druggist of the Village; Ann Hoskins, wife of Abel Downs, the founder with Seabury S. Gould of Gould's Pumps, Inc.; and Laura Hoskins, wife of John S. Gay, the writer's grandmother.

All of the children of Charles L. with the exception of Mrs. Beach have been prominently connected with local life and interests. The descendants of Laura Hoskins and Wolcott Hubbell while living at a distance are known and beloved by many of us. The same may be said of Mrs. Frances Fatsinger and Mrs. Griswold who have passed to their reward.

Miss Annette Hoskins was during all of her long and useful life a beacon light of learning and culture. Hers was a rare and scholarly mind and she used it to the fullest extent.

Of the children of Eliza Hoskins and Cyrus Garnsey it is a pleasure to record that they have been spared to lives of abundant usefulness in the community, which hopes that it may be many years before their chapter is closed. History does not concern itself with the present, only with the past. Therefore it will remain for some future chronicler to do justice to them.

While it is scarcely old enough to be history, it is fitting that this chronicle should contain a tribute to Lansing S. Hoskins and his wife, long beloved in the community, Mary Hobart Guion. It is a memory of the writer, transmitted to him by his father, that in youth as in later life she was a woman of outstanding charm and character, beloved of all her associates. Mr. Lansing Hoskins is well known and beloved by our audience to-night as a man who lived the life of an upright conscientious diligent gentleman. It is a common remark at present among housewives of this community, "No, I haven't been able to get that in town since Hoskins store closed." Mr. Hoskins loved God and was able to look the whole world in the face because he feared not any man.

Of their three sons two have passed from this plane of existence and the third, Mr. Murray Hoskins, is now residing in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Lansing Guion Hoskins, the oldest son, will ever be remembered as a man of outstanding personal charm and a lawyer of the highest ability and success.

Although he was struck down in his prime there are few in the audience tonight who do not bear tender recollections of the lovable nature as well as of the strength of manhood and gracious character of Charles L. Hoskins 2nd who was until his untimely death in 1910 associated with his father in business here. In a rare degree he combined business acumen and energy with the tastes and manners of a gentleman and scholar, while his Christian character and fortitude in the face of consuming disease was an example to all.

And so we come to the end of this brief chronicle of the mortal existence of these honorable men and women. We feel assured that they are among the immortals where in the words of the poet Kipling,

"Beyond the path of the outmost sun through outer
darkness hurled —
Further than ever comet flared or vagrant star dust
swirled.
Live such as fought and sailed and ruled and loved and
made our world",

Joining the vast company where as he also tells us

"No one shall work for money,
And no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working,
And each in his separate star
Shall paint the thing as he sees it
For the God of Things as They Are."

The Seabury S. Gould Family In Seneca Falls

by

MISS CAROLINE F. LESTER

December 10, 1934

The Gould family has been an important group in the history of our village for a full century, and it seems fitting to give a history of these men and women who have lived so long a time among us.

In 1834, Seabury Gould, a young man of twenty-two years came to Seneca Falls to engage in the business of a general merchant and lived continuously in this village the remainder of his life. He was born in Sharon, Connecticut, August 8, 1812, and descended from a group of "honored New England ancestors." Among his forefathers are Governor William Bradford, Elder Brewster, and John Alden, who came to America in the Mayflower in 1620. Other ancestors of note are the Reverend Henry Smith, the Reverend Richard Mather of the famous New England Mather family, Deacon John Seabury, William Ripley and others.

Before settling in Seneca Falls, Seabury S. Gould lived a short time in Ellenville and in Poughkeepsie, New York, places nearer his home, but after settling in this village he made it his permanent home. By 1834, Seneca Falls had been incorporated as a village for three years. The strangle hold of the Bayard Company had been severed by its dissolution ten years before, the Seneca and Cayuga Canal had become a part of the Erie Canal system and was an active stimulus to business; and water power was for sale. The rapid immigration from New England and New Jersey was still active and Seneca Falls offered a bright future to a business man.

It would seem that Mr. Gould was successful from the first, for he had been here but three years when he married Hannah Bostwick Hoskins of Auburn, and established a home in our village. During the succeeding decade or more, five children were born to them, all of whom have identified themselves with life in the village.

During the first decade of Mr. Gould's residence in Seneca Falls, Abel Downs who had married Anne Hoskins, half-sister of Mrs. Gould, was likewise a merchant here. In addition to his mercantile activities he connected himself with various manufacturing enterprises. "In 1840, Abel Downs commenced the manufacture of pumps in the wing of the 'old Cotton factory' subsequently used as a plaster mill. — he erected a small furnace over the river and at that time employed only five men. Wooden pumps were exclusively manufactured here."

By 1844, Mr. Downs had sold the wooden pump business and in company with his former foreman, John W. Wheeler, and Smith Briggs purchased the "Old Stone Shop". Here their materials were removed, a steam engine installed, the first one used for manufacturing purposes in this place, and there was made the first iron pump built in Seneca Falls. We find that in 1847, Abel Downs in com-

pany with Horace S. Silsby, John W. Wheeler, and Washburn Race, had formed a partnership for the manufacture of pumps, stove-plates, and regulators. Various changes in the personnel of of the partnership occurred during the next few years, but by the spring of 1851, S. S. Gould succeeded certain of the partners and became a full partner with Mr. Downs, the firm name being Downs and Company. The amount of capital employed was forty thousand dollars, and sixty or seventy men were on the pay roll. Pumps and Philips Patent Pipe boxes were manufactured. By 1853-54, the company built the shops between the river and canal, having purchased the site from Andrew W. Tillman. By 1860, the capital of the firm amounted to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and this, combined with the real estate and machinery, amounted to two hundred thousand dollars. Their sales during the decade of 1850 were as follows:

1850	$ 70,000
1851	100,000
1860	400,000

By 1860, the company was making more than twenty different kinds of pumps and more than one hundred different sizes and employing two hundred and fifty operatives. In addition to pumps the company manufactured a variety of useful articles such as pipe boxes, iron hand sleds, smoothing irons, jack-screws, meat-cutters and so forth.

A new and kindred industry called the Seneca Knitting Mills was incorporated in 1860 with S. S. Gould for president. Abel Downs was Treasurer, and Augustus Goffe, Secretary and General Agent. This company erected buildings and did a thriving business during the period of the Civil War, we are told. They made goods of superior quality and received government contracts. What caused the discontinuance of this company I could not discover.

In 1864, Abel Downs retired from the business he had founded and the name was changed to The Gould's Manufacturing Company, Mr. S. S. Gould being the president and continuing in this capacity until his death. In spite of the general business depression that followed the close of the Civil War, the pump business continued to develop until the buildings were destroyed by the fire in 1870. Immediately the works were rebuilt and enlarged, more workmen were employed and the sale of their wares extended to foreign countries.

During the last decade of his life Mr. Gould gradually retired from the active management of the business; his oldest son, James H. Gould, taking over. He retained the office of president of the company as long as he lived. Mr. Gould's retirement from active business was not because of ill health or diminishing power, but seems rather to have been caused by his desire to permit his sons to become acquainted, under his guidance, with the large and increasing business that he had built up. He was a familiar figure in the village, walking or driving about the streets, attending church services regularly, and enjoying home life.

Each summer it was his custom to take his family to the seashore to spend a few weeks away from home. During a sojourn at Watch Hill, in 1886, Mr. Gould died suddenly on September 4th. I well remember the shock the news of his death brought to our village. It came to the general public on Sunday morning and Miss Evelyn Henion decorated the pew where he always sat in the Presbyterian Church with quantities of purple asters. A day or two later, the large and formal funeral services were held in the Church and made a deep impression on the people of the village.

Mr. Gould was a singularly handsome man, tall and erect, always dignified in his bearing and careful in his dress. His nature was buoyant and sunny and he had a cordial greeting for every one. He knew the children by name as well as their parents and never passed them without a pleasant word.

His interests were his business, his home, and his church, and in each of these he was an able and generous leader beloved by his associates. The detailed account of the rise and development of the Gould's Manufacturing Company speaks for Mr. Gould's business ability. It may be well to point out, however, that this rapid growth could not have been accomplished without the leadership of a man of tireless industry whose main object was the advancement of that business. Mr. Gould was a judge of men and his force of office employees and shop foremen was composed of able, loyal men in full accord with his ideals.

The qualities that marked Mr. Gould as a leader in business he carried into his home in a pleasantly modified form. Always the head of his family, he deferred to the wishes of that family in a genial and courteous way. His humor, generosity, hospitality, and courtesy made his home a social center for the village, and some of us remain, who enjoyed the entertainments given in the square brick house on Cayuga Street, the Gould homestead.

On coming to Seneca Falls, Mr. Gould associated himself with the Presbyterian Church and continued this association as long as he lived. Early in their married life he and Mrs. Gould led the singing and Mr. Gould used the tuning fork now in the possession of this Society. In 1873, the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Gould's retirement from the choir after thirty-five years of voluntary service was marked in various pleasant ways. The congregation gave them a pair of bronze statuettes, presented in a suitably appreciative address by Mr. Charles A. Hawley, at a surprise party; a poem was written to commemorate the occasion; and various letters and tributes appeared in newspapers. In reading Mrs. Swaby's scrap-book, I came upon one of these that she had preserved these many years that I feel should be included in this paper. It was written to the editors of one of our village newspapers by an old resident named A. V. B. Dey of Waukesha, Wisconsin, and is dated March 10, 1873. Mr. Dey says in part:

"When the new church was built my seat was in such a position that I could look at the singers without looking around, and I

think that the countenances of Mr. and Mrs. Gould singing are indelibly impressed upon my mind and I should like to have given my mite toward the presentation for old acquaintance sake. And yet my acquaintance with Mr. Gould was that of a little, green, country school boy with a grown-up business man. — But you know, Mr. Editor, the boys are pretty shrewd in picking out men, and my favorites among the business men of Seneca Falls of that day were S. S. Gould, Abel Downs, and Isaac Fuller, and the reasons are that they were men that always knew me and spoke to me whenever we met on the street. — Thirty-five years ago! Why, Mr. Editor, that was before the war wasn't it? Yes, and before the day of railroads; no steam ship had ventured across the Atlantic; no telegraph invented, no reaper and mower to lighten the labour of the farmer; California and nearly all the region west of the Mississippi was a myth and Wisconsin just fairly discovered. Why Mr. Gould must be on the shady side of life, and has been singing through all these teeming years and I hope will still be singing as he passes over Jordan."

We now come to the second generation of the Gould family of Seneca Falls. Amelia Smith Gould, oldest child of the family and named for Mr. Gould's mother and sister, lived in this village from her birth on August 25, 1838, until in her ninety-sixth year she entered her eternal home June 9, 1934. After attending the schools of the village she spent a year at Packer Institute in Brooklyn and at the age of nineteen married Dr. William Arthur Swaby, a refined gentleman and skillful physician. As a wife and mother she exemplified the fine qualities she inherited from both her parents. Her sense of proportion and ready wit were early shown when her twin sons, William Arthur and Joseph James were small and some one remarked that the grass on the front lawn was badly worn. "I am raising boys, not grass," said Mrs. Swaby, and that well-remembered reply was typical of her attitude toward life. Her family and her home were her life. She loved her church and her friends and gave of her means and influence to the needs of her village, but she was essentially a homemaker and as the central figure of a perfectly ordered home commanded the admiration and love of her family and friends.

Elizabeth Gould, the second child of the family, born in 1841, likewise spent her early years in Seneca Falls, and is the only surviving member of the second generation family. She married Mr. John Parsons of Chicago, September 7, 1870, and left this village never again to make it her home. At present she lives in Philadelphia enjoying the care and companionship of her only child, Mrs. Winthrop Greene whom many of us knew as Louise Parsons. Mrs. Parsons possesses a genial and placid nature that has won her many lasting friends.

James Henry Gould, the oldest son of the family, was born October 21, 1844, and such is the swift passing of time and so well do many of us remember this handsome, gracious man, that it is difficult to realize that had he lived he would have been ninety years old. Like his sisters, Mr. James Gould was educated in the village

schools completing his studies at Dwight's High School at Clinton, New York. For a few years after leaving the Dwight School, he was in business in New York, but by 1872, when he was twenty-four years old he returned to Seneca Falls, and assumed the management of the Gould's Manufacturing Company under his father's direction. At the death of his father fourteen years later he was elected president of the company and continued in that office for ten years until his own sudden death in 1896.

Mr. James Gould was a man of even more varied interests than his father and gave generously of his time and ability to our village. At the time of his death he was president of the Exchange National Bank and his superior business judgment was instrumental in establishing that bank on its firm foundation. He was also for many years a member and trustee of the Presbyterian Church and during the building of the present church edifice was generous with his means and counsel. I have been told that the vaulted ceiling of the auditorium was constructed by his advice. During his travels abroad he had admired Gothic architecture and when the question of a flat or arched ceiling was under discussion, Mr. Gould's advice was accepted and the present ceiling built.

Mr. James H. Gould was twice married. His first wife, Emma Silsby Gould was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace C. Silsby and their marriage united two important families of this village. Their only child, Mary S. Gould, lives in New York City. Some years after the death of his first wife, in 1879, Mr. Gould married Miss Mary Pierpont Perry of Bay Ridge, Long Island. The only surviving child of this marriage is their daughter Emily, the wife of the Reverend George Ashton Oldham, Bishop of Albany.

Mr. Gould was a man of fine presence and much dignity. With his friends he was genial and gracious, but in general he was more distant and reserved in manner than his father or mother. In his home, his friends, young and old, were always welcome and the frequent gatherings at the Terrace Row house and at Thistlewood on the lake are pleasant memories to many in this village.

Seabury Smith Gould, II, or Mr. Berry Gould as he was for many years familiarly known in the village, was the second son and fourth child of Seabury Smith and Hannah Bostwick Hoskins Gould. He was born December 10, 1848, and as to home training and education followed more or less in the footsteps of his brother, except that he extended those years by attending Hamilton College. At the completion of his course there he too entered upon a business career and was sent by his father to oversee a blast furnace at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. After a year or two in Pennsylvania, he was called to the office of the company as Secretary. Upon the death of his father he was elected vice-president, and upon the death of his brother he assumed the presidency of the company.

It was during Mr. Berry Gould's administration that the company expanded into new buildings in the northwestern part of the village where Gould's Pumps now stands. This was an important step in the history of the business and required initiative and indus-

try. These qualities Mr. Berry Gould had in high degree and for the decade following his brother's death, he devoted his life to the business with unremitting steadfastness.

Like his father and brother Mr. Berry Gould was a member and worker in the Presbyterian Church. For thirteen years preceeding his brother's death he was superintendent of the Sunday School and put into that offce the executive ability and tireless energy that he used in his business. Those of us who attended Sunday School under his administration recall the prompt ring of the bell to announce the opening exercises; the hearty singing; the full classes, and the joyous picnics of those years. No successor has seemed quite his equal.

On April 7, 1875, Mr. Berry Gould was married to Miss Mary Mitchell Judd of Chicago. Miss Judd was the daughter of the Honorable Norman B. Judd who had the honor of presenting the name of Abraham Lincoln to the National Republican Convention in 1860. Following President Lincoln's inauguration, Mr. Judd was appointed American Minister to Germany and he and his gracious wife and attractive young daughter lived in Berlin during the greater part of the 1860's. Mrs. Gould was always modest in speaking of those days, but sometimes her friends could persuade her to tell of the party at the palace when she danced with the young prince who later became Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Seabury S. Gould II gave all too generously of his strength in the years succeeding his brother's death, as an officer in the Exchange National Bank, a trustee of the Presbyterian Church, and president of an enlarged and increasing business. Many of us can recall seeing him at his desk in the old office on the Ovid Street bridge, or being driven punctually to and from his work. The result of this unremitting labor was a breakdown that made a complete rest from business cares necessary. Even during those years of semi-invalidism, Mr. Gould kept his old friends and their interests in mind and many was the kind deed done, the pleasant note written to some one whose career he had been quietly observing. Finally death came to him on March 25, 1923, at the age of seventy-four years.

The fifth and youngest child of Seabury Smith and Hannah Bostwick Hoskins Gould was Hannah, born on November 29, 1856. Miss Nannie Gould as she was always called was distinguished in appearance and bearing resembling her father in features and physique. Her education was acquired through private schools and she always enjoyed the best in literature, music, and art. Possibly more distant in manner than her older sisters she was gracious and generous to her friends and to children. On her twenty-ninth birthday, Miss Nannie Gould married Wilhelmus Mynderse, grandson of the founder of Seneca Falls, a man of wealth and of distinction as a lawyer. They lived in a beautiful home on Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, for the remainder of their lives. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mynderse were fastidious in their tastes and in their own way enjoyed travel, books, and their friends. Many were their gifts to

worthy objects we all know, for through them this town has benefitted in its churches, library, and hospital. Mrs. Mynderse survived her husband many years, and died herself May 11, 1927. They had no children.

In my description of the third generation of the Gould family of Seneca Falls, I shall be brief. Important members of this generation are still living and material concerning them can be easily obtained. However, for the records of this society it seems best to enumerate the members of the third generation and in some cases comment briefly upon them.

Dr. William Arthur and his wife Amelia Gould Swaby were the parents of four children. The oldest child, Amelia, died at the age of nine years. Twin sons, William Arthur and Joseph James, were the next children and lived much of their lives in Seneca Falls. After completing their education in private schools and Mynderse Academy they entered the office of the Gould's Manufacturing Company continuing to hold various offices of responsibility for many years. In 1911, Joseph James Swaby died suddenly, truly mourned by his family and friends. William Arthur Swaby after long years spent in Chicago now makes his home in Seneca Falls where he oversees an extensive farm and orchards along the lake with the same efficiency and success that has marked his entire business career. The youngest child of the family, Alice Elizabeth, like her father was educated partly in the village schools and completed her education at Miss Master's School at Dobbs Ferry, New York. In the year 1899 she married James Moffat Knapp of Auburn, New York, and lived for several years in Buffalo. After the death of her husband in 1921, Mrs. Knapp returned to Seneca Falls to make her home with her mother. She and her brother now live in the family homestead on Cayuga Street, this home being one of the few on the street to be occupied by the original families for more than a half century.

Mr. John Parsons and his wife Elizabeth Gould Parsons had but one child, Louise, now Mrs. Winthrop Greene of Philadelphia. Mrs. Greene is the companion and joy of her mother who at the age of ninety-three years is the only surviving child of Seabury Smith and Hannah Gould.

James Henry Gould and his wife Emma Silsby Gould had one daughter, Mary Silsby Gould who now lives in New York City. She never married. James Henry and Mary Pierpont Perry Gould had two children who lived to maturity. Frederick Seabury Gould, who died at the age of twenty-two, and Emily, who married the Reverend George Ashton Oldham, Bishop of Albany.

Seabury Smith and his wife Mary Mitchell Judd Gould had five children, four sons and one daughter. The oldest, Norman Judd, is well known to us all. Educated in private schools and at Cornell University, he entered the Gould's Manufacturing Company as soon as he left college. His start in the business was the reverse of that of his predecessors, for he began in the foundry and worked with the men gradually becoming acquainted with each department until

he was ready to enter the office. At the retirement of his father he became president of the Company and he still holds that office. Norman Judd Gould is the first member of the Seneca Falls branch of the family to enter politics. In 1915, he was elected to Congress to complete the unexpired term of the Honorable Sereno Payne of Auburn. He was returned to office until he declined renomination in 1923.

James Henry Gould, the second son of this family was born in 1878. Like his older brother he was educated in private schools and at Cornell University receiving the Phi Beta Kappa key for superior scholarship. He was the first of the family to choose a professional career and at the termination of his Cornell course entered the Law School of Columbia University. He practiced law a short time in the office of his uncle, Wilhelmus Mynderse of New York. His early death at the age of twenty-seven years cut short what had promised to be a brilliant career. He married Miss May Sedgwick of Syracuse. There are no children.

Cora Rossiter Gould, the only daughter and third child of this family, was likewise educated in private schools. Her life was devoted to her family and to the enjoyment of a few close friends. During the World War she gave much of her time and means to war work and was head of the Food Administration work in Seneca County. She died in June, 1920.

Seabury Smith Gould III was the fourth child of the family and received an education similar to that of his brothers graduating from Hamilton College in 1911. Soon after leaving college he entered the office of the Gould's Manufacturing Company and passed through various positions until he became vice-president. During the World War, Seabury S. Gould III received the rank of Lieutenant and was stationed at Waterveliet for some time. He likewise was once sent as bearer of gold to France during that period. After the close of the war he entered village politics and was trustee and president of the village at various times.

In 1913 he married Miss Ana Fulton of Washington, D. C. Their son, born in December 1914, is the fourth Seabury Smith Gould and the only male of the fourth generation of the Gould family in Seneca Falls to carry on the Gould name.

The handsome, gracious, friendly Seabury S. Gould III is too well known to us all to require a description from me. His death on November 25, 1932, was a shock and grief to his family and friends and a loss to the village.

Edward Brewster Gould, the youngest of the five children of that family started life as did his brothers. After being educated in private schools he was graduated from Hamilton College and entered the Gould's office. For many years he occupied various responsible positions in the control of the company and showed himself to be an efficient officer. A few years ago he was attacked by illness and was obliged to sever his business relations and accept a life of quiet and retirement. He is married but has no children.

Seabury Smith Gould IV is the only one of his generation to bear the Gould name. He is now a young man of nearly twenty years pursuing his studies in Cornell University. No doubt in time he like the others of his name will connect himself with Gould's Pumps as the business is now called. This young man bears many of the characteristics of his ancestors, both of mind and body, — the fine presence, gracious manner, and interest in a business career.

And now at this meeting of the Seneca Falls Historical Society of December 10, 1934, we have looked at some of the characteristics and accomplishments of a family that for a full century has lived in this village and for more than eighty years carried on a business that has greatly influenced its prosperity.

The Cuddeback Family

by

MRS. ELIZABETH D. HOWLAND

November 1938

If we were to turn back the pages of history to the latter half of the seventeenth century, we would find a picture of life that differs little in its fundamental aspects from that of today, particularly in Europe. There was widespread persecution, pillage, and destruction of property and people, especially among the Huguenots. In 1685, Louis XIV of France issued the famous revocation of the Edict of Nantes, prohibiting the worship of the Protestant religion under pain of severe penalties, — death in most cases. Naturally these severities bore their fruit, and although emigration was forbidden, many were able to escape from France by disguising themselves, hiding by day, and traveling by night. Of this vast number of Protestants who were able to make their escape from a land in which their religious worship had been proscribed, was one Jacques Caudebec, a Huguenot, the progenitor of the Cuddeback family.

Jacques Caudebec, or Jacob Cuddeback as I shall call him, was born in 1666 at Caudebec, a thriving agricultural and manufacturing town on the Seine River in Normandy, France. He came of a family of prosperous merchants, and with other French Huguenots fled from his home in 1685. In this flight he was separated from his own family, and was unable afterwards ever to find any trace of his own people, or to recover any of their property.

With a Huguenot companion from his native Caudebec, Jacob fled, first to England or Holland, thence to Maryland. Having exhausted their meagre finances by this time, they were forced to work their way up to New Amsterdam, where on September 1, 1689, they took the oath of allegiance to King William and Queen Mary. Jacob Cuddeback seems to have adapted himself readily to conditions in the new world. He found employment with a Benjamin Provost, a Huguenot, who was a trader in New Amsterdam, and in 1695, he married Margaret Provost, his employer's daughter. About a year later, Jacob Cuddeback, his companion with whom he fled from France, and several other Huguenots purchased a tract of land of about twelve hundred acres in the Neversink valley, which lies just north of the present city of Port Jervis, New York, where the waters of the Neversink river flow into the Delaware river. This tract was known as the Cuddeback patent and included the level, fertile, low lands around what is now known as the village of Cuddebackville, and Huguenot. Here, these sturdy young people, ambitious, enterprising, and well accustomed to the hardships of frontier life, found an ideal spot to build their homes. They had determined to place themselves and their families beyond the realm of oppression and persecution, to live as free as the air they breathed. At first they built their log houses very close together for protection, on the brow of a hill overlooking the whole tract. Later, the lands of the patent, were alloted to individual ownership and the

several owners built substantial stone houses at nearby points in the valley

Jacob Cuddeback and his sons built a stone house near a small run of water just south of the present Port Clinton. This has been occupied by six generations of the Cuddeback family, and is, as far as I know, a firm, substantial, and comfortable home at the present time.

Jacob Cuddeback spent the remaining years of his eventful life in this stone house. Here he found a measure of peace and contentment. He is quoted as having said, "By leaving my native France, I have been deprived of many enjoyments, but I have the satisfaction of leaving my posterity in a country of good land, easily acquired." He died about 1767, leaving a family of ten children, five sons and five daughters.

As this next generation grew to manhood, many of the inhabitants of the Cuddeback patent crossed over into the valley of the Susquehanna, into the southern central New York counties, among them some of Jacob's sons, and some of his daughters, all of whom had married Huguenots from the families of the Cuddeback patent.

During the French and Indian wars, and the Revolution, the Cuddebacks served their country well. In the second regiment of the Ulster County militia, in the company of which Captain Abram Cuddeback was in command, we find six men of the Cuddeback family, one of whom was in command of Fort Dewitt at the time of Brandt's raid. Most of them were signers of the Revolutionary Pledge of 1775.

After the Revolution, when the state lands of Central New York were opened to settlers, many of the younger men of the third generation emigrated to this portion of the state and became pioneers on the Holland Purchase and the military lands of the state where their families have continued to reside. Others influenced by the Dewitts, surveyors, established themselves in the lake country of central New York. The more alert and venturesome of each generation sought new locations in which to establish their homes. There are now in every state in the union some who are direct lineal descendants of the emigrant Jacques Caudebec. However, those who remained on the original tract were jealous of outsiders, and guarded the paternal farm zealously from outside intrusion.

In 1834, Simon Cuddeback, (the fifth generation from Jacob) my great-great grandfather, moved from the old family stone house in Orange County where he was born in 1795, to Tyre. He came to the farm of his brother Benjamin with his wife and family which then consisted of three boys, John, Jacob, and Daniel who was then two and one-half years old. It was evidently in the winter for they came most of the way by sleigh, the rest of the way by wagon. They brought only one large chest containing bedding, clothes, and dishes, and two chairs. That is all they had to keep house with at first, and they lived upstairs in his brother's farmhouse. Benjamin soon pushed on further west to Michigan, selling the farm of 40 acres to

Simon. Simon had been in this region before his marriage. His sister Margaret had married a Daniel van Etten and lived in Lyons, New York, and about the time of the War of 1812, Simon walked up from Orange County to visit her. Evidently the impressions of that trip lured him back in 1834 to settle permanently with his family. Simon Cuddeback died in 1887, on the farm at Tyre, having attained the age of 91. His was a life long enough to witness a procession of Presidents of the United States from Washington through Cleveland. He left a family of six children, the three sons already mentioned, and three daughters, Mary, Catherine, and Charity. .

Simon Cuddeback's oldest son, John Cuddeback, my great-grand-father, was born in the old stone house in Orange County, in 1821, coming to Tyre with his family in 1834. He grew to manhood on the farm in Tyre, attending school at the little cobblestone schoolhouse on the road from Seneca Falls to Tyre. He followed the occupation of farming, working as a young man on his father's farm, then moving to Wayne County for a time, where he continued his work as a farmer. He was married in 1846 at Lyons to his first cousin Miss Sarah van Etten, the daughter of his father's sister Margaret, with whom his father visited in 1812. To John and Sarah Cuddeback was born in 1848 twin sons. One died shortly after birth, and four years later, the other twin fell into a pail of boiling water and was scalded to death. A month later on July 4, 1852, was born a daughter, Eugenia, my grandmother.

In 1854, the family came to Seneca Falls, where John Cuddeback engaged in the grocery business with his brother, Jacob. They occupied a store in what was then known as the Woodworth building in Ovid Street. Some years after that John Cuddeback started a grocery store on Fall Street. In partnership with Mr. William Seymour, he built a double block on the site of Mr. James Anderson's store and the Market Basket Store. Here he conducted his grocery business until 1892 when he retired from active business. Helping him in the store at one time was his younger brother, Daniel, who made his home with them until 1887 when their father Simon died. At that time Daniel and his wife Rosetta Johnson, went back to the family homestead in Tyre where they continued to reside. They had four children; two daughters, Marjorie and Cora, and two sons, Maynard and Clayton, both of whom died in the service of their country during the World War.

Jacob Cuddeback continued in the grocery business on Ovid Street until his death in 1892. He had two sons, George and Clinton. George had a son and two daughters. One daughter is Mrs. Lottie Cuddeback Hopkins of Miller Street, and the other daughter moved to Arizona.

Of the three daughters of Simon Cuddeback, Mary was married to Alpha Westbrook, and they had three children; John who made his home on a farm near Batavia, New York; Jacob, who lived in Tyre until his death a few years ago; and Euphemia, who married Mr. Benjamin VanCleef, also a resident of Tyre. Another daughter, Catherine, married William Little Vandermark. They had one son,

Simon, who also lived in Tyre until his death. The third daughter, Charity, never married.

During his long residence in Seneca Falls, John Cuddeback took an active interest in all things that pertained to the best interests of the village. He was for many years director and vice-president of the county agricultural society, president of the Seneca Falls Driving Park Association, trustee of the village, member of the first Board of Education from 1867-8, railroad commissioner, etc. He was also a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church at the time the present church edifice was built. He was actively interested in its construction and in soliciting funds for financing it. At one time, he was associated with Deming and Burnett Boardman in opening up a block of lots situated on the old Chapin farm on Ovid Street.

He was, I am told, an unassuming man, direct and outspoken, sometimes almost to the point of brusqueness; though his convictions were clearly defined and tenaciously held, he fully realized the necessity of divergence of opinion and zealously honored such differences. Strong in his dislikes and antipathies, he was equally strong in his friendships, always considerate and ever desirous of being helpful. His special enjoyment, outside his home, was out-of-door life. His love for the rod and the horse was well known. The love of horses, particularly, has been an outstanding trait, not only in his character, but in that of succeeding generations as well. Beyond and above all else to him, however, was his home and family.

His daughter, Eugenia, was born in Alloway, near Lyons, New York, and came to Seneca Falls, with her parents when she was about two years old. The first school she attended was a private school on Spring Street. It was similar to the present day kindergartens, being only for the very young. Later she attended a school which was held in the basement of the old Episcopal Church. Following that, she found instruction in a school conducted by a Miss Sanderson in a building located on the site of this building (The Seneca Falls Historical Building). When Miss Sanderson married, the school was discontinued, and Eugenia Cuddeback then went to the Seneca Falls Academy which at that time had but three teachers, Professors Nellis and Hammond, and Miss Bascom. In November 17, 1871, she married Mr. Adelbert S. Davis, and the subsequent story of their two children, John Cuddeback Davis, and Maud Louise Davis, is too contemporary to necessitate recounting.

During her almost eighty-seven years of existence, most of which have been spent here in Seneca Falls, she has seen the village of Seneca Falls expand and change quite materially. When she first came here as a small child with her parents, they lived on Green Street. Later, her father had homes built on Bayard, Ovid and Chapin Streets, successively, where the family lived. When they lived on Bayard Street, which was during the time of the Civil War, they occupied a house now owned by Dr. Willard Hoster. At that time, she recalls, that but for one house there was nothing across the street except open fields for some distance.

Other branches of the Cuddeback family settled in this section of the state. It would be impossible, however, to trace the complete account of their families.

Such is the story of the Cuddeback family, — a story of the emigrant and frontiersman, succeeded by the farmer, the merchant, the mechanic, those in every branch of human activity. It is a story of the development of free men in a free country, and it is to be hoped that the sterling worth and character of my ancestors shall endure through the coming generations.

The Guion Family

by

MRS. ELIZABETH GUION GARNSEY

1942

My paper tonight will carry us back four hundred years and across miles of ocean to the town of La Rochelle, France. We are all more or less familiar with that era in French history when there was bitter strife between the Romanists and the Protestants and how this strife was carried on for a matter of many years, ebbing and flowing, but always the driving force was there. Finally, King Henry IV was forced to sign the Edict of Nantes guaranteeing the Protestants freedom of worship. There were, however, strings tied to that freedom. Public worship could be carried on only in places where there was a sufficient congregation! While outwardly this edict was respected, underneath the surface trouble was brewing, and after a period of comparative quiet came the horrible massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day. Like Pearl Harbor, it was consummated when outwardly friendly feelings existed between the two sides and suddenly, without warning, the evil, treacherous thing being surreptitiously plotted, broke loose. This act is said to have been the most dastardly and greatest religious massacre in all history.

As in England the great religious reformation was brought about by King Henry VIII who with no higher motive, unfortunately, than his own selfish purposes threw off the Papal yoke and helped restore the English Church to its original and rightful place, as Martin Luther in Germany, Knox in Scotland, John Huss in the Lowlands, and others; each in his own country brought about religious reforms, so in France, Calvin had been raised up to be a great leader among his own people, inciting them to declare themselves boldly for freedom of worship. His influence spread, especially prominent among his followers being the Huguenots, — so called from one of their leaders, "Hugues" by name.

Now coming down the years to the middle of the 17th century, Louis XIV who reigned over France at this time had married Maria Theresa, Daughter of the King of Spain. Had she not died this saga of the Guion family might never have been written! It was after her death that Mme. deMaintenon came into prominence and dominated the King. She hated the Huguenots with a hatred so deadly that the Edict of Nantes was withdrawn and persecution broke out afresh. So, if Queen Maria had lived and rightly used her influence there might have been no exodus of the Huguenots to England, America, and elsewhere. In that case the great-great-grandson of Louis Guion, the Huguenot, would not have met, in New York, and married the granddaughter of John Murray, originally of Unthank, Scotland. Then there would have been no Dr. John Marshall Guion, Rector of Trinity Church, Seneca Falls, who was the great-great-great-grandson of Louis Guion, the Huguenot. There would have been no George Murray Guion, his son, and then where would have been your present scribe, she being the great-great-great-great-great granddaughter of Louis the Huguenot!

It was in 1685 that Louis Guion, living then in La Rochelle, France, and being fifty-five years old, left his native land and with his son, Louis, and son's wife, Mary Morin, sailed for England. This was four years before the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, during that period where outwardly the protestants were protected but hatred and underhand persecutions rendered life unbearable for those opposed to the dominant party. After a short residence in England, the family came with others of their townspeople to America where they settled in New Rochelle, named of course after their home in France. In 1691, Louis purchased from one, Jacob Leister, three hundred acres of land, and in 1695, he and his son received "letters of denization" from the English King William. In New Rochelle Louis built a home in 1696. This house remained standing until a very few years ago when the march of progress resulted in its being torn down to make room for something more modern and doubtless far less attractive from an artist's point of view.

Louis, the Huguenot, had been known in France as "Louis Equier" which was, I understand, a title showing high standing in the community. At any rate both Guion and Morin (son Louis' wife's name) are found in records of ancient nobility in France.

The Son Louis had four children, two born during his residence in England, one at sea, and one in New Rochelle. Strangely two of these were also named Louis. One, however, had a second name, Aman.

Other branches of the Guion family who came to this country went to some of the southern states. I think the Carolinas were notably chosen by the Huguenots as places of refuge. I quote from a book review of **The Huguenots,** "Unlike other non-English strains in the American colonies, the French did not congregate in special districts, but were spread, however thinly, throughout the Atlantic settlements. But wherever they were at the outbreak of the American Revolution, practically all the colonists of French stock were on the side of independence in that war. "Coincidence? Hardly; there was an influence at work, an old and strong inner compulsion, which ranged the French on the side of freedom and progress, against authoritarian rule and reaction. For those colonial Americans with French names were children of Huguenots." And from its beginning more than two centuries before, the Huguenot movement in France had been one of individual freedom and political progress, as well as of Calvinism and a free church."

But it is the descendants of Louis Equier in whom we are most interested, and we will make a jump now from 1687, Louis' advent into this country, to 1860, the year my grandfather. John Marshall Guion, great-great-great grandson of the Huguenot arrived in Seneca Falls to take charge of Trinity Parish. The following is copied from a Guion genealogy compiled by my father. To John Marshall Guion and Elizabeth Ives Wheaton were born the following children: John Marshall, who married Susan Imogene Latham; Elizabeth Wheaton; George William Murray, who married Adel-

aide C. Partridge; Charles Frederick, who married Frances Augusta Milk; Mary Hobart, who married Lansing S. Hoskins; Amelia Bowden; and Hetty Buckingham Hart.

Rev. John Marshall Guion, S. T. D., was born in Rye, Westchester County, New York, February 22, 1801. He was a graduate of Columbia College in 1826, and of the General Theological Seminary in 1829. He was for a time associated with Dr. Ceighton as assistant minister of St. Mark's Church, New York, and later became rector of parishes in Saybrook, Meriden, and New Britain, Connecticut. In 1853 he accepted a call to become assistant minister of St. Paul's, Baltimore, remaining there until the destruction of the church edifice by fire in the following year. While in Baltimore he officiated upon various occasions for the Chaplain of the United States Senate. In 1855, he accepted a call to the rectorship of Trinity Church, Seneca Falls, remaining in that parish up to the time of his death, which occurred July 20, 1878. His degree of S. T. D. was conferred by Columbia College in 1865. Dr. Guion was married May 15, 1832, to Elizabeth Ives Wheaton, daughter of John Robert Wheaton, of New York, and grandaughter of Dr. John Murray, of Norwich, England. She was born in London, January 5, 1801, and died in Seneca Falls, August 31, 1880.

Dr. Guion was one of twelve children, among whom we find the good old-fashioned names, Elmira, Euretta, Elijah, Elizabeth of course (there was always one in the family!), Susanna, etc. Dr. Guion himself was the father of seven children, when, leaving his family in New Britain, where he owned a small farm, he established his temporary residence on the south side of the river. When the present rectory was built the family rejoined him in 1857 and there they lived until his death.

Mr. Inshaw, in his "History of Trinity Parish" tells of the need for a rectory as illustrated by the visit of a parishioner to Dr. Guion. The caller found him ill in bed, with an umbrella over his head to protect him from the leaky roof of his boarding place!

It was during the Civil War that the rectory was built. The family was somewhat reduced by that time; two sons being in the Union Army and Charles the youngest son married and living in Auburn. Even so, the big house must be heated and the remaining mouths must be fed. The salary was small and often not forthcoming. In lieu of this there were often "donation parties" when various members of the Parish would gather together for a sociable evening at the rectory, each one bringing some gift in the way of food, perhaps a cabbage or a pound of sugar. Then it was expected that Mrs. Guion would provide hot coffee, maybe sandwiches or cake or wine jelly, or perhaps something more substantial, and at the end of the evening the guests departed with the comfortable feeling that they had lavishly provided for their rector and his family and if payment of the salary should be delayed, well at least there were potatoes in the cellar! Then Mrs. Guion would cheerfully clean up the big house after the party, the many dishes used, put things to rights, and go wearily to bed, maybe sighing a little

over unpaid bills accumulating, and salary not forthcoming, but convinced the intentions of the people were of the best.

Dr. Guion was small of stature. I remember after his death, the Rev. Mr. Casey referred to him as standing "head and shoulders above all other clergymen in the diocese." This was amazing until one realized he referred to mental stature, not physical.

One of the pleasant memories of my childhood is the Christmas family gatherings which used to take place at the Rectory. Always there were two dinner tables, one for the elders and one for the grandchildren. There were twenty-one of us all told; Dr. and Mrs. Guion, their three married sons, Maj. John Marshall, Gen. George Murray, and Charles Frederick; one married daughter, Mary Hobart Guion Hoskins, always known as "Gerty". The oldest daughter, Elizabeth Wheaton, had died and two daughters remained unmarried; Amelia Bowden, always called Coozie; and Hetty Buckingham Hart. Then there were the sons' wives and the daughter's husband; six grandsons and five granddaughters.

After dinner came games, always a candy bag suspended in the doorway between dining room and front room. When the grandchild who was blindfolded succeeded in breaking the bag with a cane, came a helter-skelter of all the rest after the candy. John Guion still has a scar on his wrist which was made when chasing Guy Hoskins in some wild game, crashed through the front window! Another game was "Bear." Grandfather Guion "booed" at us from behind chairs or doors to the great delight of all the boys; the girls were not so sure that it was fun!

Regarding Dr. Guion's stature, old Ellen, a family retainer, was heard to remark as she saw Dr. Guion and grandfather Hoskins who was equally short walking down the street together, "There go the two fathers of the same height." And speaking of fathers, it was Ellen's proud boast that there were two grand priests in town, "Father McCool and Father McGuion!" Father McCool was the priest in charge of St. Patrick's at that time.

In Grandfather Guion's day the bell in the old church tower was always rung half an hour before service; then it was tolled slowly a few minutes before. It had been the wish of the parishioners that Dr. Guion should have a photograph taken and this was urged by the family to no avail. Finally my mother (his daughter-in-law) asked him as a special favor to her to go to a photographer, and to this he consented on one condition; that she would promise to toll the bell for the next service. She agreed, and, as good as his word, he went at once to keep his part of the bargain. Seeing her ready to fulfill her part, he very gallantly excused her.

My mother also told me of another little argument she had with him. Quite unlike today's sermons, his were always very lengthy. The family used to remonstrate but to no purpose. One day a visiting clergyman preached a sermon, very brief, but very much to my grandfather's distaste. When he made some remark to that effect, my mother replied that she considered it a very fine

sermon. "Just what do you judge a sermon by?" he inquired. "By nothing but its length," was my mother's reply.

Some people considered Dr. Guion as rather gruff. Generally the gruffness was only superficial, underneath was an unbounded charity and keen sense of humor. Mrs. Kendig often spoke of a church social she attended as a young girl. It was at Christmas time and she was wearing a gold chain and locket, a Christmas gift of which she was inordinately proud and very conscious. Dr. Guion came up to her, and touching the locket, said very much to her discomfiture: "August King Miller, the pomp and vanity of this wicked world!" Crestfallen, she looked up only to see a twinkle in his eye which reassured her. His brown eyes were remarkably clear and penetrating and when something shocked his sense of propriety it is easy to imagine the blazing look of scorn which followed.

One of the prominent members of the parish was Judge Miller, a lawyer of high standing in the community. He sat in one of the seats of the old church, facing the center aisle, as do part of our transept seats. In full view of the congregation therefore, he always closed his eyes during the sermon. One day some of his friends accused him of enjoying a nap each Sunday while the preaching was in progress. To their surprise he replied by quoting, not only the text but a resume of the entire sermon, remarking that he could better concentrate with his eyes closed, and that such scholarly and well-thought out dissertations should be followed closely.

There are very few people in town now who remember Dr. Guion. Those to whom he ministered are gone. His great scholarship, his knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, his familiarity with all parts of the Bible, these are only heresay. As a pastor, I am told, he was all things to all men. No time was ever inconvenient for him to respond to an appeal for help, for wise counsel, or for reassurance to someone in doubt. His own faith was so deeply rooted that he was a tower of strength to those who came to him for help. The blood of the Huguenots in his veins gave him loyalty and the doctrines of his Church gave him in abundance hope for this life and for the life to come, and he gave freely of this abundance to his people.

The Pollard Family In Seneca Falls

by

MISS CHARLOTTE E. POLLARD

I think it would be fitting to begin this sketch of my own family with a few words from an older member of our family. I quote from the **Seneca Falls Courier** of March 26, 1876, from an article written by the late Mr. William P. Pollard, grandfather of Miss Edith M. Wetmore of this village. The article was headed, "Olden Times" and says in part: "The next meeting of the Seneca Falls Historical Society will be held on Friday evening, April 7th, at the office of H. Henion, Esq. D. B. Lum, it is expected, will read another one of his reminiscences of the early settlement of our town, which are being published from week to week in the Courier. Mr. Lum is the oldest male resident now living, who has lived here more than three score years, and he is certainly entitled to much credit for the pains he has taken to inform the present generation how matters and things were conducted when 'his first old hat was new,' for being a practical hatter by trade he furnished the headgear for the beaux of the village long before railroads were thought of, and clipped the fur from the muskrats to make them with, thereby laying up treasures sufficient to buy a cabin passage ticket for life. Very soon, all the first settlers of our village will have passed away, and while some still linger, it would seem as if the present generation was losing an interesting link in the history of the town by not encouraging this historical movement, both by word and deed, for when the time is once passed no earthly power can recall the events of 'olden times' which it is so necessary to cherish and hand down to our children's children." So much for the viewpoint of a Pollard of 1876 in regard to historical matters of this town.

As far as we are able to find out, the Pollard family of Seneca Falls, all of English descent, trace their lineage back to William Pollard, innkeeper of Boston at one time. We find in Savage's History of Settlers mention made of the will of William Pollard made in 1678, proved in 1686. Mention is also made of Ann, his wife. There were ten children of this marriage, and we find that the youngest, David, was born in 1668, and was baptized with eight others of his family in 1670, in old South Church. We think, and are probably right in this supposition, that from David, son of William Pollard, was descended our great-great grandfather, David Pollard, who came from Norwich, Conn. in 1790, and settled on the east side of the river below Afton, New York. He made a small clearing, built a log house at what was afterwards called Bainbridge, now the present town of Afton. Whether David Pollard who was a Revolutionary soldier received a grant of land from the government we do not know. We do know that he was among the very early pioneers into this state. After he had cleared the land, he sent for his family, and his wife Polly drove over with their six children in a covered wagon, — some undertaking for a woman. The records of Chenango County, New York State, show that David Pollard died there in December 1830.

Of the six children of David Pollard, Thomas, who was the youngest, married Lovicy Church who was, I think, a younger sister of Col. Timothy Church of Revolutionary fame. This Thomas Pollard and his wife are the great-great-grandparents of the Seneca Falls Pollards. Thomas was born September 1774, and died in 1827. His wife, Lovicy, was born in 1776, and died in 1848. Of this marriage there were born twelve children, Anna, Fanny, Mary, Electa, Henry, John, Lovicy, William Pettis, Irene, and Thomas Church. All of these children were born in Bainbridge, New York, where his father David had settled.

Thomas Pollard was a contractor and builder, and no doubt had a desire to better his opportunities for himself and his large family. Having heard of the little hamlet of Seneca Falls up in the lake country, and being interested in its future because of its water power, he saw an opening for a builder, and decided to bring his family here. He must have had vision and great determination to make such a venture, with a wife and twelve children. Whatever caused his decision, he came here in the year of 1819, the youngest child, my grandfather, Thomas, being but a wee baby for he was born that year of 1819. They must have come in covered wagons into this comparatively new country, because one son, William Pettis then six years of age, often told of his first impression of this town. It was the spire of the Presbyterian Church which he spied as they drove into town. Thomas settled on some land south of the village on the opposite side of the road from the Allen farm. Five generations of Pollards from this branch of the family have lived and are living in Seneca Falls since that time.

Certain names have always been handed down through the family, namely, Henry, John, William and Thomas among the men, and Mary, Frances, and Ann for the women. In this short sketch of the Pollards, I shall speak only of those children of Thomas whose lives were connected with Seneca Falls.

Thomas had a daughter, Mary, born in 1802, who married Ebenezer Ingalls when the family came to Seneca Falls. I am told this gentleman was always known as Squire Ingalls, and he built and lived in the house on the south side of Main Street occupied for so many years by the late Sidney Monroe. At his death it was purchased by Mr. Wilhelmus Mynderse, and in later years was used for a Public Library for several years, afterwards being replaced by the present Mynderse Library. It was a handsome old residence of red brick, and my grandfather said that much of the handsome carving on the woodwork of the doors and windows was done by the bride's father, Thomas Pollard whom I have said was a contractor and builder. He may have built the house, but we find no record of that fact. Here, Mary Pollard Ingall's youngest brother, Thomas, my grandfather then a lad of nineteen, brought my grandmother a lass of eighteen on their wedding journey, and a reception or infair was given for them. Many family gatherings were held here.

Now we come to the first Henry Pollard, great grandfather of Mr. J. Devillo Pollard, present Member of Assembly. He was born

in 1805, and died in 1853, at the age of forty-seven years. He married Ann Holly of Warsaw, New York. Of this marriage there were four children, Frances, Eliza, William Henry, and James Devillo. He built and lived in the house on Bridge Street, No. 59, still standing there. His widow, Ann, lived for many years there, and it was the home of the late Mr. J. D. Pollard until a few years before his death in 1902, when he purchased the home on State Street. In an address given by Mr. D. B. Lum before an early Historical Society of this village many years ago, speaking of early inhabitants, Mr. Lum said: "Henry Pollard, son of Thomas Pollard, who came to Seneca Falls in 1819, was a contractor like his father. "Harry", as he was called, had a will of his own, was independent, industrious, and accumulated property and a reputation for force and tenacity of purpose. After diligently working at his trade for some years, he engaged in the grocery business to which he added drygoods, and did a thriving business in a store situated at the corner of Bridge and Bayard Streets until his death."

Henry Pollard had four children as I have mentioned. The oldest daughter, Frances, married William Usher, and lived in this town until her death in 1904. There were four children of this marriage. Two died as little children, and two sons, Harry Pollard Usher and William Thomas Usher grew to manhood. Mrs. Frances Pollard Usher was a teacher of rare ability for many years in the schools of Seneca Falls.

Eliza, the second daughter of Henry, never married. She was a teacher for many years in Leicester, Mass., and died in Los Angeles, California.

William Henry was born in 1835, and died in 1883. He married Julia Goodsell. Of this marriage there were two sons, William James, and Seabury G., the former being the husband of Alice Daniels, daughter of George B. Daniels. They had six children, Blanch, William Henry, James Devillo, Emily, Robert Schuyler, and Julia Ada. Mr. W. J. Pollard was a graduate of Union College, and held the position of Superintendent of Rumsey Pump Works for a number of years after his graduation. For many years he was Editor of the **Seneca County Courier Journal.** He was elected President of the New York State Press Association, and acted as Supervisor for several terms. He was a man of letters, as well as a scrupulous business man.

Seabury Gould Pollard was born in 1858, and died in 1932. He was an electrical engineer of rare ability, holding many positions of importance here and elsewhere, moving finally to California where he died.

James Devillo, fourth child of Henry Pollard born in 1840, died in 1902. He lived most of his entire life in Seneca Falls. He married Ellen Douglas Latham, daughter of Nathaniel Latham, and they had one daughter, Alice Ellen. Most of J. D. Pollard's life was given to banking interests in the late Partridge Bank. He was a speaker of rare ability, prominent in Masonic circles, at one time holding

the office of Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York.

To go back now to the next to youngest son of Thomas Pollard, William Pettis Pollard came here as a little boy of six years of age and spent the rest of his life in this town. He married Mary Foote of Ithaca, and they had three children, Charles who died in childhood, Sarah Adeline who was born in 1842, and died in 1929. She married Charles A. Wetmore of Norwich, New York, and they had one child, Edith May, who now resides here. The third child was William Frederick, born in 1845, who married Miss Cora Thomas. Their marriage was blessed with two children, Jessie Thomas, and Cora Isabel. Mr. William Frederick Pollard died in 1878.

Thomas Church Pollard, the youngest son of Thomas Pollard, was born in 1819, and died in 1890. He married Sarah Maria Burrington of Cayuga, New York, and they had four children; Alvah Seymour, my father, George Gilbert, Thomas Church, and Frederick C.

A. Seymour Pollard married Franc A. White of Waterloo, and they had two children, Thomas White, and Charlotte E., your present scribe.

Bringing the family down to the present time, there are at the present time, two men of the Pollard name residing in Seneca Falls, J. Devillo Pollard, present member of the State Assembly, and Robert S. Pollard, civil engineer.

Four generations of the Pollard family have lived and worked in Seneca Falls. In the mercantile, industrial, and civic life of this town they have always occupied positions of trust, and I think I can truthfully say have never betrayed a trust. Some have been connected with the manufacturing interests of Seneca Falls. William Henry, known as Harry, grandson of Thomas 1st, had a responsible position with the Gould Manufacturing Co. as works Superintendent for many years. Harry Pollard Usher was prominent in the employ of the same firm as Office Manager for years, afterwards moving to Los Angeles, where he was a successful business man until his death. William J. Pollard was Superintendent of Rumsey & Co. after his graduation from Union College until 1890, when he established the American Globe and Supply Co.

In matters of education the members of this family have always been much interested. Mr. William Pettis Pollard, son of Thomas 1st, a merchant for many years, upon his retirement some years before his death wrote many articles for the village papers on current topics, acted as Supervisor as early as 1851, and was especially interested in the schools of our village. He was a stockholder of the old Seneca Falls Academy and Treasurer until 1879, I believe. There is one interesting fact which might be related regarding Mr. Pollard's absolute integrity in public affairs as well as his keen judgment in business matters. There was an amount of money, — about $1,500 I believe, left in the treasury of the old Seneca Falls Academy when the stock company dissolved, and the town took

over the finances of the school. Mr. Pollard who was treasurer at that time held the amount in trust for years and when the matter of building the first Mynderse Academy was brought up, much to everyone's surprise, he turned over to the building committee of the Board of Education, some $16,000 accrued from the original sum of $1,500. The money had been carefully invested in government Gold Bonds after the Civil War. How this could be done may be explained by the following excerpt from the book, "Meet General Grant." With regard to Civil War bonds, it says, "The principal and interest of the six percent bonds were payable in gold, but the bonds could be bought with paper money. A man with a thousand dollars in gold could turn it into fifteen hundred in paper money. Then he could buy an equivalent amount of six percent gold bonds. This would bring him ninety dollars a year interest. The government would eventually redeem the bonds at par, that is for fifteen hundred dollars in gold. He would thus make an additional fifty percent on his thousand dollars."

The daughter of Mr. William Pettis Pollard, the late Mrs. Adeline Pollard Wetmore is well known to most of you. As an educator and literary woman, her influence upon this community has been of greatest value. She received her early education in the private schools of this village, supplemented by a course at the old Seneca Falls Academy, of which her father was a stockholder. In 1861, she graduated from Claverack College at Claverack on the Hudson. Returning to Seneca Falls, she taught in the Academy acting as principal. She was married in 1871, to Mr. Charles A. Wetmore of Norwich, New York. They went at once to Leicester, Mass., where Mr. Wetmore occupied the position of principal of Leicester Military Academy until his death three years later. A woman of keen perception, studious to the extreme, deeply interested in community affairs, she continued her studies during her entire life and was recognized as an authority in literary matters. In 1887, she organized the Fortnightly Club in this village, and for forty-two years acted as President. It was an inspiration to work with her as the members of the club will testify, and the memory of her cultured influence lingers with us still.

No great wealth has ever been accrued by the Pollard family. As one member of the English branch of the family once wrote to Mrs. Wetmore, they have been very fond of mathematics, but have been better at subtraction than addition. The Pollards have always excelled as mathematicians, and this gift has been used by nearly all of them in different lines of work, such as civil and electrical engineers, and expert accountants, and auditors, etc. For four generations there have been Pollards in the banks of Seneca Falls. My own grandfather, Thomas Church Pollard, worked as a lad with the banking house of the late Erastus Partridge in that first Bank on the south side of Fall Street in the store occupied now by Mr. Frank Cruise. William Frederick Pollard, son of William P. Pollard, was for many years bookkeeper in the First National Bank, afterwards the Partridge Bank. James Devillo Pollard was also a valued employee of the Partridge Bank of Seneca Falls until the

organization of the State Bank of Seneca Falls, N. Y., in 1902. My own brother, Thomas White, held for forty years the different positions of teller, cashier, and President of the Partridge and later State Bank until his death in 1932.

So they have lived for four generations in Seneca Falls. They have been builders like that first Thomas so many years ago, — if not with wood and stone, — still they have builded for stability, industry, and integrity in their life in this village chosen over one hundred years ago as a home by their ancestor.

The Latham Family

by

DR. FREDERICK W. LESTER

March 16, 1936

Communities of New York State, which have had their origin directly from settlers who descended from English speaking peoples of the Old World, have a duty to perform. This duty develops upon us tonight, and in my interpretation of it, of one portion of this duty, it consists in preserving a record as nearly complete as possible with regard to the personnel and activities of some or all of the prominent families who have been so energetic in the past in establishing the industries and planning the future of such villages as Seneca Falls. It is incumbent upon us, while there are members of these sterling pioneer families still living, to get into the record, personal facts and recollections, whose value to future generations will be priceless. The Society has from time to time been entertained, and informed in these particulars by short sketches read by members of the Society concerning prominent families. Others still remain to be heard from. Tonight, I am giving you the results of my study of the Latham family.

This family is identified very prominently with the early history of Seneca Falls, and was notable for its prominence in public affairs from the earliest part of its history down to the present time. In this study I have been assisted by a member of this Society, Mr. John M. Guion, Cashier of the State Bank of Seneca Falls, N. Y. Mr. Guion is a grandson of the late Edward Smith Latham. Also, by Miss Alice Pollard, a lifelong resident of Seneca Falls, and a granddaughter of the late Nathaniel Latham, who now lives in Rochester, N. Y. Mrs. Israel Y. Larzelere, who is a daughter of the late Eugene Benham, whose mother was a sister of the late Edward S. Latham, and Miss Jannat Latham of Auburn, New York, a daughter of the late W. A. Swaby Latham, and granddaughter of the late Oliver S. Latham.

In tracing the genealogy of the Latham family, I naturally desired to find the name of the immigrant ancestor. In searching for this ancestor, I consulted a volume "The First Families of America", and abridged "Compendium of American Genealogy", edited by Frederick A. Virkus, and printed by A. M. Marquis Company, publishers, of Chicago, in 1925. In this work, the Latham family is mentioned many times, but in the list of immigrant ancestors, there is none recorded. I find scattered references to various Lathams throughout the early Colonial period. For instance, that Robert Latham, in 1688, was constable at Marshfield, Mass. That his grandson, Nehemiah, in 1735, married one Lucy Harris. Also, from the history of New London, written by F. M. Caulkins, printed in 1852, one Cary Latham, in 1664, was given the contract in New London, Conn., to run a ferry across the Pequot River, and, evidently performed his contract satisfactorily, although it is recorded that he began his ferry work in a very simple manner, viz., by the use of a bark canoe. It is recorded against him, however, in the settle-

ment of New London, that he in company with two others, Robert Bedell, and Isaac Willey were fined, charged with resisting a constable and letting go an Indian committed to their charge. A ferry monopoly was granted to Cary Latham, over the Pequot River in the town of Pequot. He entered into articles of agreement with the townsmen in 1664. "The said Latham to take three pence for every passenger for his fare, six pence for every horse or great beast and three pence for a calf or swine and to have liberty to keep some provisions and some strong liquors or wine for the refreshment of passengers." Mr. Latham, on his part bound himself to attend the service immediately with a good canoe, and to provide within a year's time a "Sufficient boat to convey man and beast." He also engaged to build a house on the ferry lot, east of the river by the next October, to dwell there and to keep the ferry carefully, or cause it to be so kept for the whole term of 50 years. It is recorded that Cary Latham became wealthy and had descendants. His oldest son, Thomas, and his second son, Joseph, had descendants, and a third son, John, died at New London about 1684. One of his daughters, Elizabeth, was married to a man, John Leeds, of Staplehowe, Kent, England, about 1678, and had a family of children. John Leeds was a mariner and commander of the ship "Success" and also built sailing vessels and had a shipyard on the east side of the river. After Cary Latham's death, the ferry passed into the hands of John Williams, who succeeded to the 50 year lease. It was provided in the lease that to the inhabitants of the town on Lord's Days, Thanksgiving days, days of Humiliation and town meetings, "dues shall be by ferriage free." That is, "such as shall cross the ferry to attend public worship or town meetings." The mode of conveying, down to the year 1800, was by a scow using both sails and paddles.

Miss Lucy Latham, daughter of the late William Arthur Swaby Latham, a teacher at Kenwood, N. Y., has been kind enough to give me some special information in regard to the Latham family, which should be mentioned here. It is her impression that Robert Latham who married Susannah Winslow of Mayflower descent was the earliest ancestor to reach America. His brother was Cary Latham who came over a few years later, and there seems to be a little doubt as to whether Robert or Cary is the immigrant ancestor. This point has not been as yet, thoroughly established. It is, however, quite well established that Obadiah Latham Sr., who heads the Latham family in this vicinity, came to Seneca Falls as a master builder at the request, and under the employment of Eleazer Hills, firm of Hills & Sheather, a man of wealth, who was constructing a chain of flouring mills in this section of the country, having mills at Auburn, Weedsport, Waterloo, Aurora, etc. His first contract with Obadiah Latham was for the construction of the old stone mills, which as time went on and conditions changed, is now a portion of the Clary block in Seneca Falls. The old chest of carpenter tools and instruments that Obadiah Latham brought from Groton, Conn., is still in the possession of the Latham family.

An outstanding characteristic for many generations was the Latham hair, red of almost any shade. It persists through all

branches of the family and is present today in the various descendants.

In 1778, Captain William Ledyard was appointed to the command of the posts of New London, Groton, and Stonington, with the rank and pay of major. Under his direction, the works were repaired and strengthened and additional batteries erected. A William Latham was captain of the artillery at Groton on the fateful day of the expedition of Benedict Arnold against Ft. Griswold in New London, Conn. Colonel Ledyard of the military command and Captain William Latham were the officers in command of the Fort. He it was that fired the two guns at fixed intervals to call in assistance from the neighboring country. The attack was made upon the Fort which was obliged to capitulate. When the colors were lowered history records the disgraceful conduct of the British Commander. Major Bromfield cried out "Who commands this fort?" "I did, sir, but you do now," replied Colonel Ledyard, raising and lowering his sword in token of submission, and advancing to present it to him. The ferocious officer, Bromfield, received the sword and plunged it up to the hilt in the owner's bosom; while his attendants rushing upon the falling hero, dispatched him with their bayonets.

It is only thus by inference that we can trace the Latham ancestors, and cannot assume that Cary Latham was the immigrant ancestor. However, the senior member of the Latham family, Obadiah, Sr., who came to Seneca Falls, it is known, was born in Groton, Conn., and this is quite significant as to the family line, and its origin.

There are definite breaks in the records, due to the burning of the Town Hall at Groton, Conn., many years ago, with all of its records.

Obadiah, Sr., said that he was descended from Robert Latham who was the grandson of Mary Chilton. If that is so, the beginnings of the Latham family in this country are as follows:

1620 (Mayflower) Mary Chilton married John Winslow. His daughter, Susannah Winslow, became the wife of Robert Latham.

Cary Latham was a brother of Robert, and came over here a few years later.

Obadiah Latham, Sr., a contractor and builder, who built the old "Stone Mills", now the Clary Block, Seneca Falls, N. Y., was born in Groton, Conn., February 29, 1780. He died October 1, 1831, of typhoid fever. He married August 4, 1804, Lovina Janes, who was born June 26, 1781, died January 21, 1859. This remarkable couple had eleven children, six sons and five daughters, and were the immediate ancestors of the Latham brothers, who as individuals and together had to do with the construction of many large buildings and public works in Seneca Falls, among which were the woolen mills, now the Geb and Garvin factory; the other Stone Mill, now the Seneca Falls Rule and Block factory, the Seneca County Poorhouse, canal locks, Miller's dam, which was the falls of Seneca Falls, the old Ovid Street bridge, which was the last work

constructed by them in this vicinity, and the Custom House at Buffalo, N. Y.

The names of the six sons were, Franklin B., Edward Smith, William H., Oliver S., Obadiah B., and Nathaniel.

The five daughters were Adelia, who died at the age of 15; Hannah, Esther, Mary, and Susan.

Franklin B. Latham, the oldest son, was born in 1806. He was a builder and property owner in Seneca Falls.

Edward Smith Latham, the father of the late Mrs. Imogene L. Guion, was born October 7, 1808. He died March 9, 1867. He was a civil engineer and a builder, and built his home at what is now 43 West Bayard St., in the year 1833. He resided there until his death. He designed and built the towers for the first suspension bridge at Niagara Falls, and constructed for himself a tenant house every year in Seneca Falls, for at least thirteen years, among which was the wooden structure, dubbed the "Crystal Palace", a four family tenant house on Bayard Street, west of No. 3 Engine House in Seneca Falls. The "Crystal Palace" was thus named by Mr. Latham, probably, because it was so different from a real Crystal Palace. In one part resided Mrs. Caroline Hindel, a fortune teller, popularly known as "Aunt Caroline." She there plied her somewhat dubious occupation of prying into the future for a very moderate consideration, and supported herself in this manner.

William H. Latham, known as Bill Latham, was a member of the Latham Brothers, Builders & Contractors firm, but seems to have gone through life without specially distinguishing himself, and is said to have died young.

Obadiah B. Latham was described by a relative as tall, thin and dignified in appearance. He was the ablest of all the brothers. He was an architect and civil engineer, and the inventor of many mechanical devices, including several kinds of heavy hoisting machines, models of which are now in the possession of relatives. He was a Civil War soldier and had served as a paymaster in the Army of the United States, and was one of the first commissioners who planned that enormous structure, the Capitol at Albany, N. Y. It is related, and substantiated by an article, which appeared many years ago in the New York Herald, that when he was called upon to pass upon the work on the Capitol, that he discovered certain defects and flaws which he was bound in all honesty to report and which upset the plans of a political ring, who secretly and dishonestly endeavored to make profit out of the work for themselves. Some of the decorations which were ostensibly hand carved mahogany, proved on his investigation to be nothing but painted papier-mache, and he likewise discovered that a row of brown stone houses on a nearby street in Albany had been constructed from material paid for by the taxpayers of New York State. Due to his exposure of the plots of the political thieves of that period, in this respect, Obadiah Latham was promptly relieved of his position as consulting engineer, but the fraud was exposed and the culprits

were punished for their thievery. In private life, Obadiah Latham was austere, almost to gruffness. He married, as a young man, a beautiful woman who died childless, and it is said that this event changed his disposition and produced an effect from which he never recovered. His early education was in the schools of Seneca Falls, and at the Union Springs Academy, but was never crowned with a college degree, nor did he, as far as is known, receive his engineering education from any well known technical school. In the day in which he lived, such institutions of learning were few and expensive, and men who reached eminence in their professions frequently, as in his case, did so by sheer intellect, ability and energy. He died at the age of 52. All his work, including the local job of strengthening the walls of the First Presbyterian Church which was done in conjunction with his brother, Nathaniel, showed superiority, if not actual genius in his chosen field of architecture and civil engineering.

Obadiah Latham, Jr., while in the employ of the State of New York in the construction work on the Capitol, was never paid for his services. A bill of $70,000 for work, honestly and conscientiously performed, was presented after his term of service, duly audited and ordered paid. However, when the money was proffered in silver, it was refused by Mr. Latham on the ground that he had been offered payment in gold coin. Thereafter, all efforts to obtain payment proved futile and the bill, a copy of which, is in the MacDonald law office to this day, has never been paid, although one of the most just and correct accounts that was possible to render. Several times, proceedings have been instituted to obtain legislation for the payment of this claim but without any tangible results. The claim has never been paid.

Oliver S. Latham, conducted the Latham & Osborne Lumber and Coal business, which is now owned and operated by Roy W. Yawger. He is remembered as a forcible, humorous, genial man. His son, William Arthur Swaby Latham, familiarly known as "Swabe" Latham, recently deceased, was the last of his generation, which consisted of more than twenty cousins. Every one will remember the energetic personality of Swabe Latham. He was a salesman for many years for the Westcott Rule Company of this village. In this line of endeavor he was quite successful and was well known to the trade throughout the eastern states. Before that, he had conducted an insurance business for a period of several years in Seneca Falls. One daughter, Mrs. Cowgill, died leaving a young girl, Jessie, who grew up in Seneca Falls and now is Mrs. Frank Church of San Antonio, Texas. Another daughter, Mrs. Lavina Lawton, wife of Charles Lawton, lives in Michigan, and had a large family.

Nathaniel Latham, born 1823, died 1892, was an architect and civil engineer, and worked with his brother, Obadiah, on construction jobs of all types, bridges, buildings, etc. His education was acquired by practice and was not the result of collegiate instruction. I remember him quite well, as he was a personality that inspired awe to a youth as I was then. He used to drive about the village

in a phaeton with a sorrel pony and once seen, with his sorrel pony, would be thereafter well remembered. He was street commissioner of Seneca Falls for a number of years, also, superintendent of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal from Waterloo to Montezuma. He had charge of the work, at that time, on the Ovid street bridge in Seneca Falls. He was short and heavily built, had a long white beard and a red face like the pictures usually accepted as representing Santa Claus. His voice was loud and his accents stentorian in character and volume. He made use of various metaphorical epithets and profane expressions in conducting his work, which were rather startling to the hearer and worker. One of his favorite expressions was, "wheat in the bag" which meant what we would term, "all right," or "O.K." at the present time.

The following two interesting anecdotes or stories are worthy of repetition regarding the work of the Latham brothers:

In the Seneca Observer, a weekly newspaper published at Waterloo at the time, in the copy dated Thursday, February 19, 1852, appeared the following notice:
To the Board of Supervisors of Seneca County:

The undersigned, having been appointed committee to examine the Poorhouse and farm, beg leave to say that "They think it is in a very dilapidated condition and unsafe for the inmates, and that it would be bad policy to think of repairing it, and recommend that you build a good substantial stone Poorhouse, a little east of the orchard."

(Signed)
J. Rorrison,
R. P. Hunt,
Committee.

P.S. — We, herewith, submit an estimate of the cost of a stone house, 92 ft, x 46 ft., wing 26 x 22 ft., basement 10 ft. high, walls 2½ ft. All to be studied inside of stone wall for lath and plaster. Total estimate, including window sashes, door trimmings, two furnaces and fixtures for heating and two cook stoves, $7,000.

(Signed)
J. Rorrison
R. P. Hunt

Another legal notice in the Seneca Observer, dated Thursday, March 18, 1852, of the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, was the following:

On motion of Mr. Southwick, the Board by unanimous vote, resolved to adopt the proposal and bid for the building of the Poorhouse, submitted to the Board by Franklin B. and Obadiah B. Latham for $7,104.00, as being in the opinion of the Board most advantageous to the County.

(Signed)
Henry Park, Chairman,
Samuel Birdsall, Clerk.

It was further Resolved, on motion of Mr. Stevenson, that a contract be entered into with Frankiln B. and Obadiah B. Latham and that Edward S. Latham and Edward Mynderse of the town of Seneca Falls be accepted as sureties for the safe performance of said contract.

It was further Resolved, on motion of Mr. Stevenson, that there be raised by tax on the real and personal property of the County of Seneca, the sum of $8,500.00 in three equal annual assessments on said property and this sum be appropriated to the building of the Poorhouse mentioned. It is needless to say that the Poorhouse, as it is at present, was forthwith built and furnished for a sum, which seems to us at this time, very conservative and reasonable. Had the contract been proposed at the present time for the same building, including such furnishings as were supplied for the sum raised, it would, probably, cost about five or six times as much. This bit of historical information, authenticated by the records cited, is of interest to us as citizens in showing the integrity and economy of that generation in public construction work.

On Sunday, September 22, 1907, an historical sermon was delivered in the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls by the Rev. William P. Schell. It was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Junius, now Seneca Falls, which was organized on the 10th day of August, 1807. Mr. Schell told how services were conducted for a time in the barn of Col. Daniel Sayre, on the Lake Road, beyond the "big hollow" near the present location of the Souhan farm. The First Presbyterian Church building was erected on the present Cayuga Street lot, which had been donated by Col. Wilhelmus Mynderse in the year 1817. The First Presbyterian Church was dedicated on the 4th day of December 1817. In 1842, this old church was sold to Franklin B. Latham for $111.00 and was removed to State St., where for many years it was known as Concert Hall. It is still utilized as an office and store building. A new church edifice was erected on the church lot, and dedicated on November 16, 1842. This church had a column front, half basement and a central tower. It was of frame construction and lasted until 1871. It was by far the best looking of all the churches of the village. However, during the pastorate of the Rev. J. D. Krum, D.D., a plan was conceived to erect a new brick church, and thus finally the third Presbyterian Church was erected, the same one that we have now. It was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on the 14th day of January, 1873. This church was considered to be a good substantial structure, but sad to relate, weaknesses developed in the building, due to the incorporation in it of old timbers from the preceding church. Wide cracks appeared in the north and south walls and a spreading of the church was evident, permitting the east wall to lean forward to an alarming extent. It was evident to all that unless something very radical was done, the church was doomed and would soon fall apart, splitting crossways through the middle. It was at this juncture that the Latham brothers were called by the Board of Trustees of the church into consultation (in the year 1876). After careful examination and

consideration of the problem, Obadiah Latham conceived a plan, which was accepted by the church board, to place heavy steel bolts and trusses lengthwise of the church, and by means of turnbuckle screws, to draw back the walls into position. The application of these parallel 3 in. steel bolts and trusses was a work of no mean proportions, and involved the expenditure of a considerable sum of money. Weeks were consumed in the installing of the steel work. All the steel and iron work was made by hand under the direction of the late William Williams, a master mechanic, father of Mrs. J. R. Wayne and Mrs. W. P. Elwell of Seneca Falls. At last, all was ready and the day came to turn up the screws and straighten the walls. Men were stationed inside the church with bars. Obadiah Latham stood on the outside and placed his brother, Nathaniel Latham, inside the building. The orders were given to begin turning up the heavy turnbuckles. Gradually, a bit at a time, it was observed the wall began to straighten. Midst some excitement, the last turns were made as the fissures in the walls closed until finally the wall was plumb, the job was completed, and the church saved from destruction. Nathaniel Latham, after the work was over came outside the church and spoke to his brother, Obadiah, in his usual forcible fashion, "Obadiah," he said, "was there any danger inside that church when those walls were being drawn together?" "Yes," Obadiah replied, "that was the most dangerous position of all." "And you, damn you, put your own brother inside that church in the post of danger, while you stood outside, did you?" "Yes, I did," Obadiah said, "but the danger might have been equally as great from the falling objects on the outside." It took some time to quiet the ruffled feeling of the excitable "Nat" Latham.

It may be said in closing this anecdote of the Latham brothers, that the work was well and thoroughly done and the church has remained sound ever since.

The Latham brothers, Obadiah and Nathaniel, were many years ahead of their time in their knowledge of the application of steam and water power to the various uses of industry. They knew very little about electricity or the transference of electrical energy, as that particular form of engineering was then only in its infancy. The idea of transference of energy, however, had entered so strongly into Nathaniel's mind that when he became old and somewhat demented, he one day unfolded to a relative a plan he had devised for harnessing the waters of Niagara Falls and transferring it, by means of a power shaft across the state of New York to the city of Albany. From this shaft, by means of gears, side shafts were to be attached and the water power was thus to be transferred all over New York State, and used for the operation of machinery in factories just as electrical power from the same source is used today. "Crazy" you will say, but not so crazy after all, when we reflect that his mind worked only along mechanical lines, and this was long before the day of the transferrence of electrical energy by cable. This tremendous conception he divulged to the relatives under the strict pledge of secrecy.

Nathaniel's daughter was the late Mrs. J. Devillo Pollard.

The old Nat Latham homestead is, in part, still standing at No. 37 West Bayard Street, and is now owned and occupied by the Malone sisters.

It may be said that the chief characteristic of the Latham brothers was what is now termed a "rugged individualism." They were outspoken, aggressive "he" men, and disliked sham and hypocrisy. By some they were termed "a lot of cranks." They built their structures on honor and gave full honest value for their money. They were all devoted to their mother Lavina Janes Latham, who lived to be 78 years of age and who was one of the original signers of the Woman's Declaration of Rights, at the time of the first Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls.

It is proper to say that the power of heredity has been very marked in the Latham family, in regard to their passion for engineering, building, and construction. This characteristic was very prominent in all the Latham brothers who lived in Seneca Falls and has extended through succeeding generations.

A very remarkable instance of this wonderful gift for architecture and building is shown in John Benham, a grandson of Nathaniel Latham, who rose to eminence and wealth in the construction of bridges and other public works in and around New York City. One of the largest contracts was the building of the board walk at Coney Island; another, the shoring up of Ellis Island in New York harbor, and last, the construction of a bridge from Manhattan to Glen Island, a work of great magnitude.

Finally, I may say that the village of Seneca Falls is proud to be able to claim these men as her sons and descendants for the world was made better by their achievements.

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